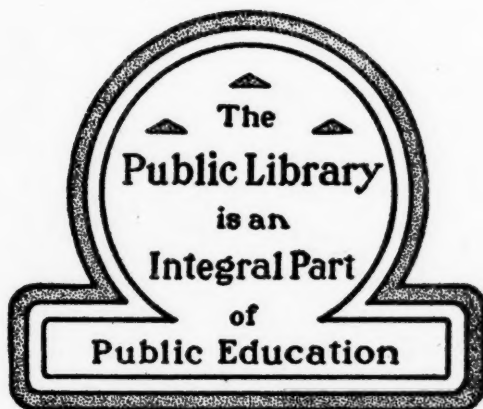


Vol. 16

March, 1911

No. 3

# Public Libraries



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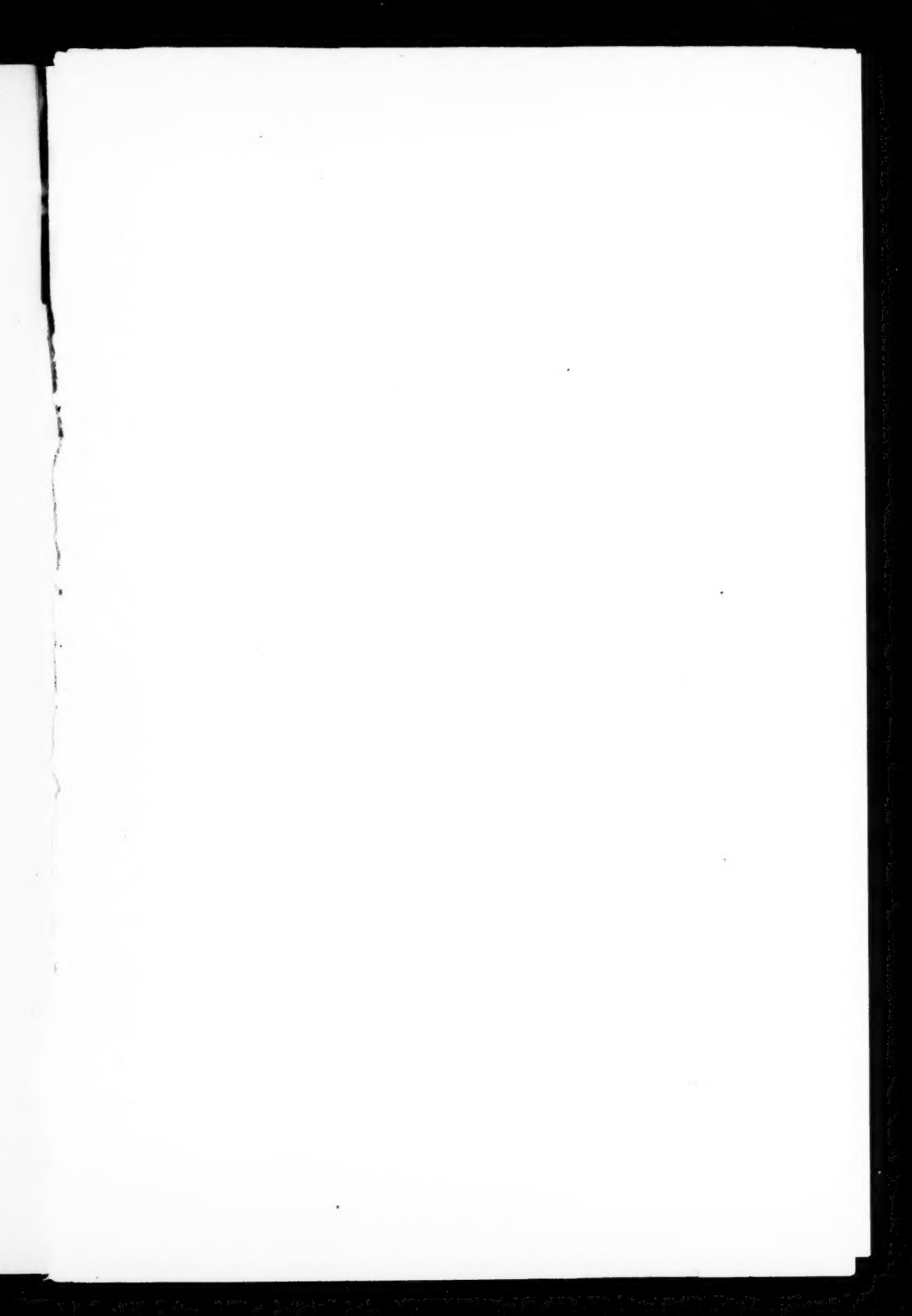
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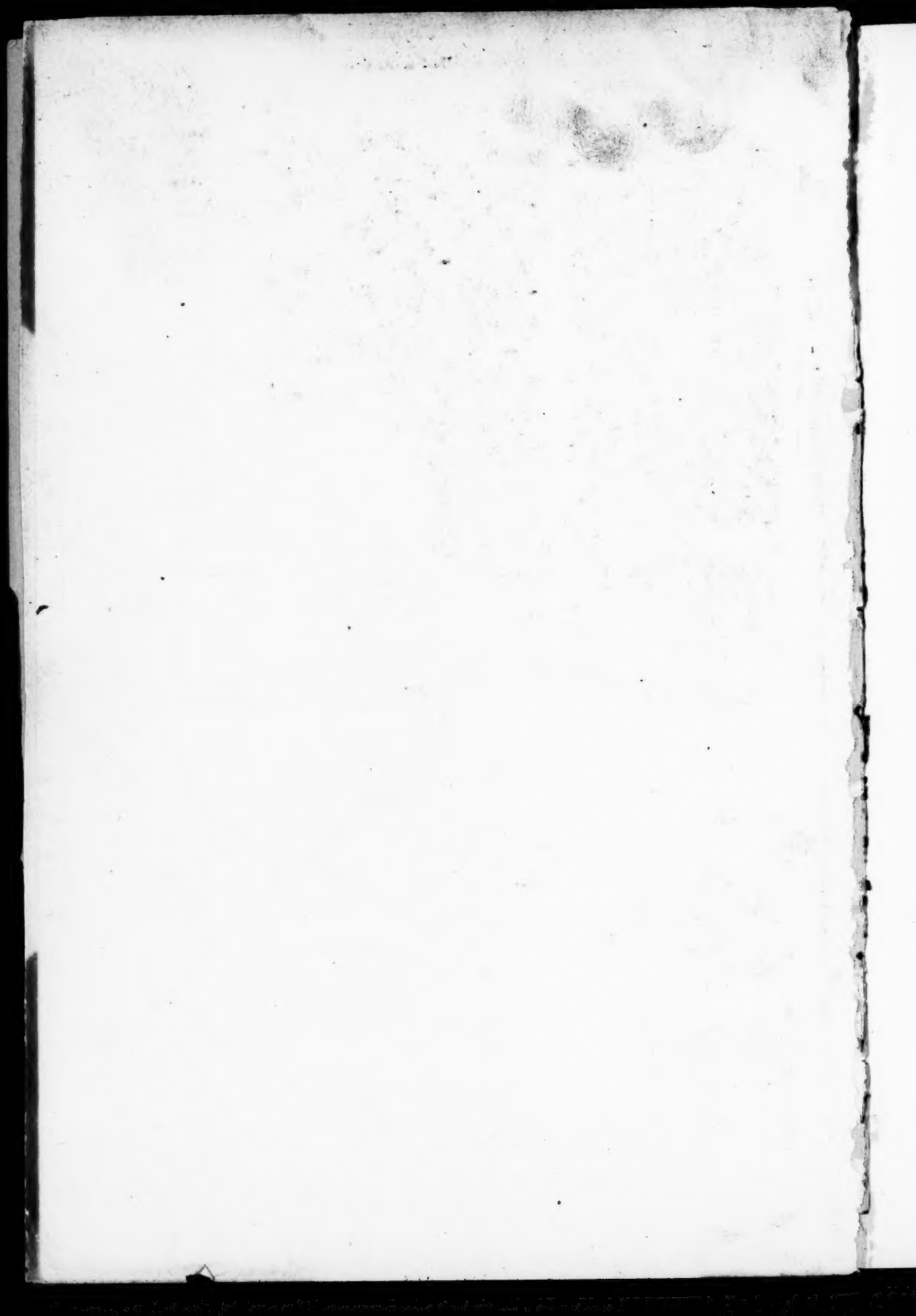
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# Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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## The Stranger Within Our Gates; What Can the Library Do for Him?\*

Rev. F. C. H. Wendel, Ph. D.

I am especially happy to have the privilege of speaking on a subject that is very near to my heart. Being myself of German parentage, having lived much of my life among those who are either themselves immigrants or the children of immigrants, I think I can speak with knowledge acquired at first hand, especially as I am conversant with the tongues of several of the European nations. My service with the New York P. E. City Mission society as a chaplain engaged in hospital and prison work has familiarized me with some of the darker sides of our immigration problems. And lately my membership on the Western Massachusetts diocesan committee on the needs of Oriental Christians and other foreigners, has made it my duty to study these same problems from still a different point of view.

I have thus, in the course of not a few years, been enabled to note how these problems present constantly, almost year by year, new aspects, growing ever more complicated and more serious. Those of us who either have reached middle age or are approaching that period of life, can readily recall a time when the immigration question presented comparatively few problems. The early streams of immigration, having their sources in Great Britain and Ireland, in Germany, and in the Scandinavian countries—mainly, if not en-

tirely—these new elements of the population were readily assimilated. And this was so because they were closely related by ties of race, of language, and of religion, to the earliest settlers of this continent, who came, to a great extent—leaving one side the early French and Spanish settlers—from these same countries. And today the children and grandchildren of these immigrants are hardly distinguishable, in features, in speech, in religious convictions, or in social position, from the descendants of the original settlers.

But, practically within our own generation, there has come a very decided change over the character of the immigration. Men of new races, speaking tongues strange to our people, possessing religious convictions and expressing them in forms of worship foreign to our ideals, have come to this country, are still coming, and will continue to come in perhaps yet greater numbers. These peoples we understand as little as they understand us; and out of this fact arise most of the problems that puzzle both sides. A mutual comprehension would solve more than one of these vexed problems. Let us glance at a few statistics. From 1900-1910, about 2,000,000 Italians and about 900,000 Poles have been added to our population. Within the same period, have come some 225,000 Greeks, 53,000 Syrians, hordes of Slovaks, and ever-increasing streams from Russia, and the Balkan states. About 13,000 Turks have come to us in these same eleven years. Thus we have had added to our population two new peoples, the Italians and Poles, dif-

\*An address delivered at the midwinter meeting, Feb. 1, 1911, of the Western Massachusetts library club.

ferent in language and in customs, though linked by a common faith to one class of our own population. In the Greeks, Russians, Slovaks and Balkans, we have an entirely new element, of strange tongues, of peculiar customs, of religious convictions entirely new to our people. The Greek church (the Holy Eastern Orthodox church) has now a full establishment here, with about 1,000,000 members, a Russian archbishop, a Greek archbishop, and a Syrian Orthodox bishop; and hardly one in a hundred of our people knows anything about these new neighbors of ours. Nor are the Mohammedan Turks less strange to our civilization, nor are we less ignorant of their language, customs and religious convictions. We are, perhaps, better acquainted with the Jewish element that has been coming to us lately, mainly from Russia, Poland, and the Balkan states. About 1,000,000 have come to us from this source in the past eleven years. Yet they present many differences from the Jews of a generation ago. This statistical survey of the question is merely intended as an approximate statement of the facts, and lays, of course, no claim to exactness. Western Massachusetts has had its fair share of this foreign influx. The population of the five western counties of this commonwealth was, by the state census of 1905, the latest at our command, a little more than 25 per cent foreign, and the non-English-speaking element was about 15 per cent. The percentage varied from 18 per cent in Franklin county to 30 per cent in Worcester county.

As a whole, the attitude of our people has been anything but friendly or hospitable toward these new hordes. Not wholly comprehending the newcomers, the American people as a whole have felt, rather than understood, the differences of race, of language, and of religion that rise between us and our new populations as apparently insurmountable barriers. Racial antipathies are always more apt to be

matters of the emotions than of the intellect. To this day, the old feeling of almost every race is that the foreigner is an enemy. We have advanced but little beyond the conception of the ancient Romans, who had but one word for "foreigner" and enemy—*hostis*. For it is this same racial antipathy that makes the staid New England matron distrust all "foreigners," and that is reflected in such nicknames as, "Paddies," "Micks," "Hans," "Guineas" and "Dago." Yet this antiquated standpoint seems hardly justifiable in our land and age. We are proud to publish to all the world that our country is the divinely appointed refuge of the oppressed of all lands, yet when they do take us at our word, we look at them askance.

Would we justify our position, would we make good our boast, that this land should be the refuge of the Jew, fleeing from religious persecution in Russia or Roumania; to the Finn, sadly turning his back on country and home, because the Russian government is proscribing his Lutheran religion and coercing him to conform to the Orthodox Greek faith; to the Christian Syrian, fleeing from Mohammedan persecution; to the Greek and the Italian, seeking here what they cannot have at home—a chance to make a living; to the Mohammedan Turk and the heathen Chinaman, seeking commercial advantages; the first thing needful to us is a sympathetic understanding of these peoples. Three channels for such an understanding are, I believe, open to our people: Church work, public schools, and the public libraries.

While it would be fascinating to dwell, especially on the church work, I want simply to indicate the other two channels, and pass at once to the public library. It is a truism, of course, to librarians, that the true public library is a sort of literary exchange, a center and source of literary culture. But just here comes in the point of contact between you librarians and the

foreigner. Your library can be made the middle ground on which all of the races that make up our population—be they old or be they new to our history—may meet on a basis of equality; and you, the librarian, might well act as a sympathetic mediator between, or rather among, discordant elements. Whether you stand at the head of a great institution like the City library of Springfield, or of a small town or village library, you should make yourself more or less (preferably more) acquainted with our foreign elements, with their home land, with their history, with their literature, with their religious faith, with their ideals—racial and personal. Such information can be found in elementary shape in encyclopædias, in books such as are included in "The stories of the nations" series, in general histories, in a host of books on travel, etc., as will readily occur to you all. Let me add that some knowledge of a foreign tongue would be of inestimable value to you. Brush up the French or the German learned at high school or college. Italian can readily be learned by one who knows French. Of course, this requires time; but if you love your vocation, you will not grudge the time. Let some one of you who has to deal with, say, French Canadians and Italians try this plan and experience the delightful results. The only trouble will be that your library, or your home—provided the foreigner has no priest or pastor to whom to go—will become a sort of bureau of universal information and helpfulness; and you will not know how to get rid of your importunate charges. Other tongues, such as Modern Greek, Polish, Russian, etc., are more difficult. But perhaps some bright young woman might be found among these populations, who could take up library work and be an invaluable assistant. But at any rate you ought to know one foreign tongue. You can have no idea until you have made the experiment, what a bond of sympathy the possession of a common tongue may be. In my prison and hos-

pital work in New York city, I was enabled to assist men and women and to help do away with more than one abuse, simply because I could speak to the German, the Frenchman, the Italian, and the Spaniard, each in his own tongue. My office in the Church of San Salvatore, in New York city, was a bureau of information, an employment bureau, and, in general, the resource of my Italian parishioners, whenever they or their friends had gotten into any trouble, or perplexities, owing to their ignorance of our language, our laws, or our customs. I remember one poor woman from Venezuela, who long lay on a bed of suffering, in Bellevue hospital, friendless and alone in a great city. The first day I came into the ward and addressed her in Spanish, she brightened up; and the nurse told me that every morning at the time I made my round through her ward that woman's eyes turned expectant toward the door. I could not do much for her; but the sound of her dear native tongue gave her new courage.

Not only does the knowledge of the foreign language give you a bond of sympathy with your new public, but it also opens up to you the gateway of the national literature, a knowledge of which is essential to the understanding of the habits of thought and of the ideals, as well as the manners and customs, of your foreigner. But whether you actually do acquire the new language or not, do not fail to learn all you can about your particular foreigners—French Canadians, Poles, Bohemians, Greeks, Italians, or whatever they be. Let them know that you comprehend them and their national life; and the bond of sympathy is knit, never to be loosed, so far as the foreigner is concerned.

And this leads me, naturally, to another point that is of great importance. Make your foreigner feel at home in your reading-room. This can best be done by taking for his benefit newspapers and magazines, in his native tongue—preferably from his own coun-

try. I can recall with what avidity I devoured, in a Berlin reading-room, the first copy of the *New York Herald* that I had seen in some nine months. It was two weeks old; yet I read it all, from the first word on the first page to the last word on the last page—news, personals and advertisements—just because it was a home paper; yet I was in the land of my ancestors, of my own parents; and German was my mother tongue. You see I can appreciate what the home paper, or even the local paper, in the native language, must mean to the foreigner. Perhaps you are all doing something of this kind already. I noticed the local French papers in the reading-room of the Greenfield library. Let me suggest a few magazines and papers, quite at random: *Revue des Deux Mondes* and *Lectures Pour Tous* (Paris); *Il Secolo XX.* (Milan), and *La Nuova Antologia* (Rome); *Por Esos Mundos* and *Blanco y Negro* (Madrid); *Die Gartenlaube* and *Vom Fels Zum Meer* (Leipzig); *Ai Athenai* (Athens); *Le Courier des Etats Unis* (French); *Die Staatszeitung* (German); *L'Avallio* (Italian); and *Atlantis* (Greek); all of New York city. To these may be added local papers. No doubt there are intelligent and educated men of all the different races who can suggest the local periodicals in their own tongues. On the shelves of the library itself, the educated and cultured foreigners, of whom not a few come to America, should find the best of their own literature. It is not so much needful to have many books, as it is to make a good choice from both classical and recent literature in their respective tongues. No doubt the editors of the leading foreign periodicals, or the clergy of the foreign churches, would be only too ready to help you. Whatever assistance I can render, I shall gladly place at your disposal at any time. How much good can be done in this way I saw, when—with the full consent of the sheriff—I cleaned out the old library of the New York county jail, and put in a traveling library, in which were included books

written in German, French, and—if I mistake not—Italian as well.

Having made your immigrant feel at home, you can next turn your attention to assisting him to become more or less of an American. Dean Giroux will have much to say on this subject, and I would not encroach on his topic; but permit me to suggest that the library can make itself the ally of our day and evening schools, by furnishing the books recommended by the teachers, and aiding the interested student in his struggles with the English language, and in his excursions into English and American literature and history. Be sure that your library has on its shelves the best dictionaries to be procured. Of inestimable value would be translations of popular and well-known foreign books into English, and vice versa, original and translation standing side by side and always to be read together. This should be your "Language student's shelf;" and the books should be strictly confined to this one use. Also be certain that you have several copies of American histories in each of the various foreign tongues, such as Botta's History of our war of independence in Italian, and Vlastes and Gkouttze's History of the United States in modern Greek.

Let me sum up briefly, in closing, the points I have tried to make: Would you librarians really help the "Stranger within our gates" to come into sympathetic touch with us, you should first become acquainted with him; you should give him a cordial welcome to your library, and make him feel at home there and in the community; you should do all in your power to assist him in his often blindly groping efforts to learn to know our language, our customs, and our ideals.

---

Your circumstances may be uncongenial, but they shall not long remain so if you but perceive an Ideal and strive to reach it. You cannot travel within and stand still without.

### How to Interest Working Men in the Use of the Library

W. F. Stevens, librarian, Homestead, Pa.

What is a working man?

The logical answer is, "A man that earns his living." There is, however, a common understanding that the laboring man is the man that does the laborious or dirty work. The working man has been discussed so much during the last 25 years that we have come to look upon him almost as a curiosity, and altogether as a problem. But the idea is not so much to define him as it is to interest him in self-culture. To be able to interest anyone in a matter for which they seem to have no particular liking requires an effort.

What is the very first requisite in creating interest?

It is a pedagogical fact that nothing is taught where no interest is taken. It is true that every sane man is interested in something. The point of interest can only be discovered by personal contact. It often happens that a few well-directed questions will float a hobby or give you a clue to something that interests him. That point of interest may be developed by you making yourself "one of him." It is said of Senator Depew that it makes no difference to him whom he is addressing, he makes himself "one of them," and his success in interesting his audiences is proverbial. If one has had a varied experience in life it makes this accomplishment quite easy. You and I get nothing out of the reading of a book with which we have no sympathy or common points of interest. It is equally true that we will get nothing out of a laboring man with whom we have no sympathy or common interest. The point of interest may not always be a high ideal, and that is where this kind of work proves objectionable to some librarians who contend the library has to do with only the intellectual.

Has the library a right to do more than administer books?

Yes. Many librarians claim that the ultimate aim of the library is to "get the right book used by the right person."

That is good as far as it goes. But the public institution that does not stand for all round development is not equal to its opportunity. The college library is supposed to cater to the class work, while the class work is really preparing the student for the use of the library. Pedagogues are coming more and more to the conclusion that when a scholar becomes a good reader he is half educated. The plans for one of the new branches of the Cleveland public library will be equipped for settlement work. The charter of the library may not permit this library to operate a settlement work, but it is planning to provide this department, and allowing another organization to operate it. The Cleveland library is, therefore, doing more than circulating books. Many libraries furnish rooms for clubs and reading circles. The museum, the art gallery, the music hall, the night school, the athletic club and the public schools are all used in like manner as feeders for the library.

All this helps to demonstrate that the library has a right to conduct any reputable work that will aid in attaining its ultimate aim of getting the book used.

What are the most desirable adjuncts to library work?

There are three phases in the lives of people, which, if properly developed, will make them the most useful citizens: the mental, the moral and the physical. When Andrew Carnegie built and endowed the three institutional libraries at Braddock, Homestead and Duquesne, he seemed to have been inspired to provide for this triple or all round development. The library for the mental. A strong body with a weak mind only provides a ward for the state. The athletic club for the physical. A strong mind with a weak body is almost useless. The music hall stands for the ethical and moral. A strong mind with a strong body, but void of ethical culture and morals, constitutes a dangerous citizen. Most libraries provide literature that stands for this all round development, but few provide the means for carrying it out as completely as these three libraries in the Monongahela valley.

Which of these adjuncts to library work appeal most successfully to men?

We are created social beings, and the point of interest is often the other fellow, whose nature attracts us. We want to be where he is, and we therefore go where he is. It is inherent in the human race that man should be strong and provide protection for the family. For this reason physical culture and the athletic club appeal to men. The social center and the opportunity for physical development attract a certain class of men. The man who has a family that satisfies his social nature and an occupation that supplies the needed physical exercise, has little need for club life, but it frequently happens that a man may be happily surrounded with social life at home, but feel the need of attending organizations of more or less social consequence. In Homestead alone, there are approximately 100 organizations that contribute to this dominant passion of the race. This does not include 60 saloons that contribute to this end, to say nothing of the street corners, where men congregate in small groups.

How does the athletic club meet this need?

The club should have a wholesome entrance, light outside and warm inside. A cheerful entrance with a cordial reception by employes with the right idea, goes a long way towards winning a man's interest and good will. The very first room the man enters, next to the reception hall, is a billiard-room, where he may indulge in sane and well-regulated play. Sixty thousand games a year gives a fair idea of how much our men enjoy this form of club life. All around the room is a line of comfortable chairs, where the men wait for their opportunity to engage one of the ten tables that are in use almost continuously from the middle of the afternoon until 10:30 at night. Cigars and chewing gum are supplied at the usual cost. This convenience is conducted as an accommodation to the men and not as a business. The next room is supplied with accommodations for games. The cards used in playing 500 are barred. While the art displayed

throughout the club is of an athletic character, the frieze in this room is composed of college posters—athletic, but not always artistic. The next room is a large and commodious parlor, where the men may read the popular illustrated papers, have committee meetings, and sometimes a smoker on a small scale.

On the second and top floor is the gymnasium. Out of 1000 in athletic classes, fully 500 are working men. If the working boy might be added to this total it would be about 800. After a vigorous hour in the gymnasium the natorium is naturally sought. This is located in the basement.

A battery of eight showers, twenty tubs and a swimming pool holding 100,000 gallons constitute this department. Out of 70,000 baths taken last year, fully 50,000 were taken by men and working boys. The bowling alley receives its share of patronage, with 2000 games bowled by working men alone. Out of an attendance in this department of nearly 100,000, two-thirds of which might be credited to working men, it would be impossible to say how much the circulation of books depends on this attendance. There is no doubt that the club has a wholesome influence on the use of the library. The nights that the boys and ladies have their hours in the club there is a rush in the library. The rush does not extend to the working men's hours, although it is a matter of which we are cognizant that the laboring man frequently comes into the library for books for himself or family on the evening that he comes to the club.

What excuse have you for conducting a night school?

There is no doubt that the primary business of the library is to bring two minds together: the living mind and the mind as represented on the printed page. The librarian is the guide. At the desk the intellectual accumulation is given out as books; in the reference department the reader is brought in touch with the definite knowledge desired. In the night school the teacher goes a step farther and leads the reader in a process of acquiring knowledge. The circulation

credited to the night school alone was, during the educational season of six months, fully 3000. This was all among working men and boys. The tuition in this department is \$2 for the season of six months. Better attendance is secured where the rate is higher. The subjects taught in this department are such as add to the efficiency of the student in his daily occupation. Among the most popular studies are: reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, algebra, physics, geometry, trigonometry, foreign-English and metallurgy. The attendance in these classes last season was 3000.

We often hear of people being to the manner born, but the Welshman has an additional accomplishment, he is also, to the music born. This accounts for us having added to our educational department: a band, two orchestras, a mandolin club, a male chorus, and a children's chorus. One hundred and forty out of a musical membership of 260 are men. The circulation of music, including books on theory and scores, is approximately 5000. The attendance during the past year was 3500. The total attendance in scientific, musical and literary departments was 7100. This is not expected to indicate that the circulation of music is confined to the membership of these musical organizations. This department closes its season's work with a commencement or exhibition which compares favorably with the average high school commencement.

Do your study clubs benefit the working men?

The value of the literary and study club in any community is so well understood that they need no defense. Our library has encouraged the organization of literary clubs, but has never made them an official part of the institution. At the present time there are 23 such organizations, with a total membership of 812. Of this total, 220 are men, many of whom are doing definite study club work that requires the use of the library. About one-half of this number of men might be classed as working men. These clubs

have a union meeting at least once each year, under the title of the United literary clubs of Homestead.

How do you help the mill men that live beyond your corporation limits?

This problematical man of whom we are speaking often lives beyond the immediate influence of the library. In this case the library invades his province, whether that happens to be in a distant mill or a village in the outlying districts. A station or small branch library is sustained in the reading-room of the Mesta Machine Company, with an annual circulation of about 1000. Several more stations are conducted in villages whose population is made up largely of the men in the mills and their families. Even the mining communities throughout the southern part of the township are sent books that may in many instances benefit the working man. This is not our limit, because our vacation books go to the French River in Canada; hence, we are international. In like manner our books are taken to other states, hence, we are interstate. We lend books to other libraries, so we are interlibrary. Nearly one-half of our population use the library, indicating that it is interesting, and the prospects are that the Homestead library will be, eventually, intereverything. So the probabilities are if we have not already won the interest of the working man to such an extent that we may be of some practical service to him, that we soon will arrive at that happy opportunity.

The greatest opportunity of the working man is self help; his greatest privilege is freedom of thought; his greatest power is the use of the ballot; his greatest blessing is the American home; and his greatest curse is the American saloon. Eliminate the curse; fortify the home; guard his power; develop his privilege and opportunity by locating him in his place in literature and you have done for the working man about all that the public library can do to make it possible for him to enjoy all that is good and beautiful.

### The Business Man and the Public Libraries

Charles Kerr, Esq., Lexington, Ky.

The angle at which the business man comes in contact with the library would be hard to determine. This is essentially an age of mutation, sometimes, by those more given to felicitous expressions, referred to as the age of progress. When the poet said:

"We are the same our fathers have been—  
We see the same sights our fathers have seen;  
We drink from the same fount and feel the same sun,  
And run the same course our fathers have run."

we had hardly approached the age of steam, had not dreamed of the age of electricity, to say nothing of aviation. It may be "we are the same our fathers have been," in that we are "touched with the same infirmities," but we are certainly not the same in that the means we employ to the accomplishment of our end are the same. In the days of Solomon, much learning was a weariness of the flesh, and of the making of books there was no end; at the high tide of Elizabethan development Shakespeare found

"Learning is but the adjunct of ourself"; while the sentiment of today, expressed by Owen Meredith, is that

"We can live without learning,  
We can live without books."

Libraries, and the purpose they serve, are not today what they were in the days of our fathers. If we might draw an illustration from present company, we would probably find that the Lexington library association, in its early beginnings, was composed of the business men of Lexington, who felt the necessity for some Pierian spring from which all might drink, not as an aid to them in their several avocations, but as a source for that learning which they deemed an essential adjunct of themselves. What to the "Laird of Skibo Castle" may be the impelling motive "doth not yet appear," but certain it is the Carnegie products of today, and the purposes they serve, are far from identical with the purposes

served by the originals. The difference in relation between the free public libraries of today and their primitive ancestors, kept up by subscription, is much the same by comparison as the difference between those who get the "drippings from the sanctuary" and those who worship in rented pews. That interest which is quickened and kept alive by a sense of proprietorship is not, unfortunately, to be found in the modern free library. Measured by the pleasure it gives, the greater number it serves, and as a source of information to the general public, the modern library is in every way immeasurably superior to the old, but in this intensely and severely practical age the relationship which exists between the business man and the library is not intimate. Formerly, the business man read for recreation, going far afield of anything connected with his every day affairs, while today only that which in some way bears on his particular business appeals to him in the slightest degree. Moreover, that interest which the business man should put in the library, and that benefit which he should derive from it, is made all the harder to maintain by reason of the fact that the average man of business has no time to waste on theories, practical experiences being his only sources of information. Not that this applies to all men of business, or to all kinds of business, but to a survey of the relation as a whole. The average man of affairs who reads for recreation, for the very love of reading, usually seeks something foreign to his business. The merchant, in his hours of business, is absorbed with trade journals, market reviews and stock tickers. The lawyer, after a day spent with his briefs, law reviews and court reports, has little appetite for economics, tariff discussions or municipal reform movements, after his day's work is ended. The plumber does not go to the library for theoretical discussions on hygiene and sanitation; the doctor does not go there for dissertations on serums, astringents, bloodless surgery, or the family tree of some newly discovered microbe; the groceryman, after a day spent with the housekeepers,

has but little relish for such enlightenment as he can secure at the library on the subject of the high cost of living; the banker finds little on the shelves of the library that would enable him to collect an overdraft, increase a surplus, or avoid the necessity of passing a dividend. In this age the literature of a business or profession is not sought. Nor is this the fault of the library. Solely to the fact that only knowledge, which is gained from experience that is wanted, is the cause. That between the business men of the community and the library there is lack of cordiality would probably be the testimony of the average librarian. For this there must be cause, and for that cause there should be a remedy.

The assistance which the library can be, and ought to be, to the average business man, is not one of the things he considers. The greatest trouble lies in the fact neither knows the need of the other. Every man's business has its literary side. That side, if studied in the way it should be, becomes a recreation and not a drudgery. The farmer finds no occasion to go to the library for assistance in his business because he has never been taught that his profession is as much a science as that of the doctor or the chemist. When agriculture is transformed into a scientific profession, and the products of the soil are made the subject of the same study and treatment that is given by the manufacturer to his business, the library, supplied with a collection of all the treatises on subjects of interest to him, will attract his constant attention. What is true of one profession is true of all. Business men know and study only the drudgery of their professions. The horticulturist never seeks information on the culture of plants, trees, shrubbery, and the like, at the library, and the average library, because such information is not sought, never burdens its shelves with unsought books. And if, perchance, a business man, seeking information on a given subject, fails to find exactly what he wants on first inquiry, he never seeks a second time, and the library, never having had a call for such a book before, has not

attempted to keep it at hand. The average library cannot afford to lade its shelves with books that are never called for, and yet there is not a self-sustaining library in the country that would not keep constantly on hand every book on the subject of agriculture, architecture, banking, or mining that was called for twice in one year. A banker, for instance, who confines himself to the work of shaving notes, lending money, increasing the surplus and making loans on good securities, loses all the pleasure of his business if he fails to make a study of the history of his profession, to know its influence as a factor in the business world, its scope, its relation to the agencies that must give it support. The man who stands at the head of a banking institution is a much more efficient banker if he knows the history of banking, its growth, its development, its influence on the business world, and all the interdependent relationship that exists between it and its patrons. The success of a banking institution may depend on the value of its securities and the solvency of its customs, but he is a much more influential banker who knows the history, growth and development of commercial paper. He may know the difference between the liability of an endorser and a maker of a note, but he probably does not know why the difference exists, or what has been the developments of commercial life that make the difference necessary.

Inquiry at almost any library would put the means of supplying himself with all this information at his immediate command, and once acquired, make his profession much more attractive.

There is no profession, no business in which men are engaged that this is not equally true. Until the business man seeks that knowledge of his business that books can supply, and that aid which books can give, the library will not be to him what it can be and what it will be. Between those in charge of the library and the men of business there must be an interchange of information on the subject of supply and demand. When the business man makes his wants known,

the library will supply every demand. To what extent the library should undertake the work of education and instruction along this line, is probably afieid of this discussion, and yet it is not without the range of usefulness which a library may render.

This view of the subject, however, presents some difficulties, and must continue to present difficulties until the question of coöperation between the business men and the library is solved. The librarian is at an inexpressible disadvantage unless the man of business in some way makes known the class of information he wants, and, until he does, the librarian no more knows what books to purchase for his wants than would the merchant know what goods to buy for his customers if they never called for what they need, until the day they needed it, and then called for something that no other merchant carried, or that had never been called for before.

The good a library may be to a community cannot be estimated. The individual in that community that does not benefit by its presence is beyond reclamation. Its influence is as permeating and as quiet in its workings as any moral agency that exists. Only its loss will give an adequate conception of its influence. No community, in this day, is prepared to compete with any other community in point of culture, that has the misfortune not to have some kind of a library. And yet, this very thought, the misconceived idea that prevails in every community, particularly in a community where there is a business activity that influences, in a way, the thought and character of its people, that the library is purely a place of recreation, a place sought by school children, young ladies who read the sentimental output of the day, and men and women who read as a solace, and not as a place where they can benefit themselves in their daily work, is the immediate, and, I might say, direct cause of the lack of mutual support between the business classes and the library. There are few communities that do not possess some line of business that is peculiar to that particular place.

With prohibition knocking at our door, and the tobacco pool obliterated, it might be a little difficult for us to locate our specialty just at this time. But, for instance, the hemp industry, from which many of our citizens got their start—and some of them their finish—in the manifold uses to which it can be put, and the purposes for which it is used, its history, its developed importance, the decline in its production, its growth and development since its first appearance among the nations of antiquity, is a subject which has never, perhaps, been studied by any merchant of Lexington in the hundred years that it has been the principal product of the community. And yet I have not the slightest doubt but that "The reign of law" is far from being all of the information that this library could furnish on the subject. In the long years that the present librarian has, with marked efficiency, served the people of Lexington, I much doubt if she could recall a single instance of a Lexington hemp dealer ever calling at the library for a treatise on the subject that was his means of livelihood. This is not the fault of the library. Avoiding with extreme caution even a suggestive purpose of criticism, I would do no violence to the situation if I were to assert that the fault lies in the fact that the average business man looks only at the commercial side of his business, and totally ignores all others. The curse and blighting influence of commercialism is just as manifest in its tendency to destroy any inclination on the part of the business man to direct his attentions to any feature of his particular line beyond cash balances and dividends, as it is in any other respect.

In every community, where business impulses are felt, there is usually some kind of a commercial club, some sort of an organization that has for its end the betterment of the business of the community. If properly supported, these organizations are always of incalculable benefit. By a systematic determination on their part and on the part of the libraries to bring the business community into closer relation each with the other,

some progress might, in a very marked and encouraging way, be made. A manifestation of interest on the part of the libraries to the extent of furnishing these organizations with a list of all the business publications in the library, particularly with reference to subjects of interest to that community, would, in few instances, if ever, fail to quicken an interest in the library, and create a disposition to inquire for other books not already at hand. The reading of one book on a given subject, to an inquiring mind, never fails to suggest the necessity for something more, and this interest, once created, cannot fail to grow, and as it grows the coöperative spirit must increase. Again, this interest might be encouraged and sustained by a notice from the library to the business man that certain books had been procured for his particular examination and review; or, that the need for certain books was felt, and suggestions for the purchase of a class of books along certain lines would be appreciated. Man is the most peculiar of all animals. If his advice is sought, his identity, for any particular purpose, is singled out, he at once feels an inclination to respond, and once his interest is aroused he will seldom withhold his support. The whole subject resolves itself into the single question of creating an interest. How that may be done has been most inadequately hinted at in these somewhat discursive observations. Certain it is, I feel, that the library will have to take the initiative, along some practical lines, and wherever there may be the slightest response some additional means of creating a still greater interest will be suggested. What would appeal to the business men of one community might fail in another. To reach the most perfect and satisfactory results the business man will have to be educated to the point where he will see that drudgery is not the only side of his profession. I believe this can be done by an invited coöperation on the part of the librarians. Some few Ephraims, always, will be found, but the situation is far from being a hopeless one, and it will, in time, yield to treatment.

### Some Phases of Rural Extension in Iowa

Ellen I. True, librarian, Onawa, Ia.

In the chief cities and centers of this country a remarkably splendid system for the distribution of books has been devised. It is but natural that this library movement should have its origin in the towns and centers where the congestion of population and wealth has created the demand and the supply. The time has now come, however, for the extension of this movement to the rural districts. It is now an issue that the same ability and energy that the librarians have shown up to this time in the towns and cities be directed to devising means and methods of reaching the country people as they have those of the city.

The library commissions long ago recognized the need and with their systems of traveling libraries are doing a magnificent work for the rural districts. The field, however, is large, and if all the people are to be properly served and the reading habit made a universal one, a system of further rural extension must be devised.

The state of Iowa has attempted to provide for such extension by a law now on its statute books called the township extension law. By its provisions any township, through its trustees, may vote a tax for the support of a neighboring library and in return get full library privileges. The aim of this article will be to show some of the possibilities that such a law opens up before the small library in a rural district for its growth and service, with especial reference to the work that has been attempted in the Onawa public library.

Let us suppose, as is the situation in Onawa, that you have a fairly well-equipped library, well established, if not in the county seat, at least in one of the larger towns of the county. You are adequately meeting the needs of your particular community, which may number, as with us, only 2500 people. Perhaps you are reaching some of the country people in your immediate vicinity and number among your patrons a few of

the people from the neighboring smaller towns and villages. Still, however effective your work may be, you are but a small oasis in the desert, as your county will probably embrace 20,000 people, which is an estimate of the population of our own county of Monona. The question then before you is how to bring the library in active touch with every person in that county.

Let us compare your situation for a moment with that of a large library in a city, for the problem after all is not so vastly different. You both have the people to serve. The most striking difference, of course, is that your population is extended over a wide territory. You have miles to the cities' blocks. You have a scattered population while the librarian of the city or town has to deal with more or less congested districts.

The city librarian to effectively reach his patrons has established his branches and stations to best serve his public, and what is best for him is certainly a necessity with you. Another great difference between you and him is that he has a much larger library and greater resources. The thing to do, then, is to strengthen yourself on this your weakest point by an active campaign throughout your townships, to get the tax voted to support this work which you ought to be able to carry out among them. Once this support has been given by any town or township comes the question of ways and means, the problem of getting the books to the people.

There are really two methods of township extension as it has been worked out in Iowa. The one that is practical to adopt in any special locality will depend on a careful study of the map of that district and the peculiar local conditions of the country. It may be that it is a county with few if any small towns, besides the county seat, or it may have a number of small villages forming the social centers for the townships.

In the first case that of a township with no small towns in it, the natural centers will be the country schools or churches scattered throughout the dis-

trict. The natural plan to adopt here of course will be small traveling libraries, such as the commissions already send out around the state, these groups of books to be placed in the most advantageous distributing centers.

The second plan is the one that we are trying to work out in Monona county. Scattered throughout its townships there are about nine small towns, which one can easily see form the social centers for the townships in their immediate vicinity. Here the farmer goes to get his supplies and for his market. Why should he not go or send for his books also? These towns, then, form the strategic centers. The thing to attempt here is to get the town council and the township trustees both to vote the tax. Thus sufficient support can be obtained to establish a small branch library in any of these villages which will serve not only the town but the surrounding country.

This is exactly the situation in a branch we are now operating at Castana, a small community of about 400 people, 14 miles from Onawa. It is located on the border line of two townships. Appropriations have been made under the township law by the town and the two townships combined which have enabled us to establish the branch. The library there occupies a small building by itself and all expenses of operations are met by our board. A custodian is in charge to keep the library open three days and two evenings a week. A good general stock of about 500 books is kept there all the time, 50 or 60 books being exchanged back and forth between the main library and the branch every few months.

The local Woman's club and superintendent of schools and teachers are urged to make their wants known that they may be supplied. Anyone in the town or country wanting a special book on a particular subject has only to notify the person in charge and the book is then sent out from the main library. There is no reason why the people in the two townships and town cannot derive the full benefits of the main library at Onawa.

It may perhaps be of interest to know the income and expense of a branch such as this. We get about \$400 from the town and townships combined, and a good estimate of our expenses would place them in the neighborhood of \$200 for heat, light, service, etc.

Our plans for the future will, of course, be based on these lines. We shall attempt to establish these branch libraries in the small towns, and in the townships that need it adopt the other system of traveling libraries, so that eventually we will probably have both systems in operation, as the geographic situation seems to demand.

We have discovered that we meet some opposition in the towns, due to the fact that local pride and prejudices are strong. However, it is necessary in such cases, if possible, to convince the grumblers of the economic value of building up one strong central distributing center that will be able actually to put at the disposal of a large district the resources of what ought to be a large library. Eventually we should have a large collection at the main library ready at any time to be put at the disposal of any particular section of the county to meet any particular local demand or need.

There is another phase of this rural extension work that is full of possibilities and I firmly believe will be widely developed in the future. This is the work with the country schools and the country school teachers. Unless one has had some experience with the district schools and their inmates, teachers and pupils, one has but a vague idea of the actual conditions existing there.

When you consider the fact that the majority of the children in these schools only go for perhaps a few terms, and then oftentimes to go over the same ground they had the year before, the possibilities and responsibility before the library of getting the proper reading matter to them while they are there is great. In a few of the schools efforts have been made under a provision of the school law to get books, but the children for the most part are without books and the read-

ing habit. Usually a school year in these districts is composed of only six or seven months, and lucky is the school which is not shut down during "husking time," or does not change its teacher once or twice during the school year. In consideration of facts like these it is time that interest was being aroused to the needs of these country children. Much is being done these days for the city child. Cities like Chicago are building their splendid system of playgrounds. They are bringing to their tenement dwellers the wonderful outdoor country life, and it is only fitting that in return an effort be made to carry some of the advantages enjoyed by the city child to those of the country. I do not see why, eventually, as in the city library where there is usually a system of duplicate school collections, that the same cannot be worked out in the country schools in the townships enjoying the library privileges. The need is certainly even greater than in the city.

I have been just lately impressed with the possibilities along this line in our own work with the teachers of the eight or ten schools in our own immediate vicinity. These schools have all been visited since they opened in the fall. A study has been made of the ages and grades of the children therein, and the interest of the teachers has been so aroused that they come regularly to get books for the children. On these visits stories were told, and if the children's librarian in a tenement district gets a hearty response for her most feeble efforts, certainly it could not be any greater than the one found among these country children. In the same way the schools about the Castana branch were visited, the interest of the children aroused in reading and the teachers shown the use that could be made of the library. These schools have peculiar needs, and it is only by coming in close contact with them that results can be obtained.

The attempts of work along this line that have been made are but the forecast of what can be done. A regular system of books sent out from the branch library to the schools can be developed. Teach-

ers' meetings and institutes are held throughout the county regularly each year, where the librarian can exert her influence in the instruction as to the literature that can be used and how to use it.

I am thoroughly convinced that rural extension is practical and that it is possible, and as the last 15 or 20 years has seen a tremendous advancement in the city libraries, I hope and expect the next decade will find the same progress in libraries of the rural district.

### **A Legislative and Municipal Reference Bureau for Illinois**

A bill was introduced in the Illinois legislature on February 1, by Senator W. C. Jones. It is known as Senate bill 139, and its main features are as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby established, with offices and quarters at the University of Illinois and at the state capitol, a legislative and municipal reference bureau, to be under control of a board consisting of the governor and two other persons appointed by him, to serve for a term of four years and until their successors have qualified, the said members to serve without compensation.

Sec. 2. The said board shall be empowered and required to appoint a director of the said bureau and to fix his salary. The director appointed in pursuance of this act may with the approval of said board select such assistants and employes as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and they shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the board.

Sections 3, 4 and 5 deal with the manner in which the bureau shall be conducted, which is not essentially different from the well-known procedure of such departments in other states, and follows the Wisconsin law rather closely.

Sec. 6. For the maintenance of the bureau, the authorities and officials in charge of the University of Illinois shall provide suitable and convenient offices and quarters in the buildings of such university, and during the sessions of the

general assembly, and at such other times as the board may deem advisable, the said director shall keep an office and quarters at the state capitol, where the secretary of state shall provide adequate and suitably furnished rooms for his use. The director shall be required to transfer thereto, or maintain thereat, such part or parts of his collection as may be needed for the use of the members of the general assembly, and he shall be ready at all times to render such service in the drafting or revising of bills and resolutions, and the furnishing of information concerning proposed objects of legislation, as may be required of him.

One of the strong books of the year which ought to receive careful attention, and one at least which should receive special attention from the librarians in bringing it before the notice of the men of the community, is "International law," by Dr Lawrence, formerly of the University of Cambridge, England, and for the past few years, lecturer on International law before the British Admiralty. Dr Lawrence reviews the various international conventions which have suited the laws to nations, and takes the rules from each and arranges them under appropriate headings along with the customary rules regarding international customs accepted by all nations in peace and war. The same method is applied to peaceful intercourse. Enough of history of these international customs is given to show how the rules which prevail have come to be as they are. Illustrations and examples abound. While tracing the history of events he frequently expresses his own opinion and reason for his preference for one custom over another. The history of the Monroe doctrine is brought up to the latest development; the Pan-American movement with its congresses and conventions receives notice. Dr Lawrence is a jurist, but also a reformer. He does not confuse what is, with what ought to be, but is keenly alive to the possibilities of human betterment. It is a book to be recommended to thoughtful men.

### Ido, the New International Language\*

The John Crerar, Newberry, and Public libraries of Chicago have recently laid in a stock of Ido books. H. L. Koopman, librarian of the Brown university, Providence, R. I., is one of the most recent adepts of Ido in this country. Among the scientists of world-wide fame who are active Idists (not merely platonic endorsers of the general idea of an international language) are Jespersen of Copenhagen, the philologist; Ostwald of Leipzig, the chemist, and Pfaunder of Graz, the physicist. A good many names could be added from the younger generation of scientists. Ido has, since the first grammar was published in the summer of 1908, produced a literature of text-books which is printed in at least 15 languages. It counts 12 magazines, and technical dictionaries are now appearing in rapid succession to make the language fit not only for the wants of commerce and travelers, but also for all scientific topics. The *Scientific American* has cordially endorsed Ido in several long editorials. We quote from a 1500-word article in the *Scientific American Supplement* of June 18, 1910: "We are today in possession of a language which in respect of facility, lucidity, variety and elegance of expression represents the pinnacle of international speech. The new language has been called 'Ido' (that is, a *descendant*), because it sprang from Esperanto. . . . Esperanto has suffered because it has fallen into the hands of scientifically untrained persons, and sometimes into the hands of fanatics. Added to this was the desire to soar to the summits of literature instead of confining the language to the practical affairs of life. . . . The 'Delegation' has, on the other hand, taken the standpoint that the solution of the problem is purely scientific and technical."

To enable the intelligent reader to judge for himself to what extent this latest attempt at an international language is likely to have permanent success, we

\*Pamphlets and further information on Ido may be obtained upon receipt of a 2-cent stamp from the author of this article, O. H. Mayer, 1716 La Salle avenue, Chicago.

intend to explain, very succinctly, what constitutes *internationality in language*. In this article we have only room to add a brief comparative text in the two leading candidates for international language honors, and we ask the reader to follow it closely, line for line, as a preparation for our further comments.

The following is from Lincoln's Gettysburg address:

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or to detract.

*Ido.* Ma, en plu larja senco, ni ne povas dedikar, ni ne povas konsakrar, ni ne povas santigar ica sulo. La brava homi, vivanta e mortinta, qui kombatis hike, santigis ol ya multe ultre la povo quan ni havas di adjuntar o deprenar.

*Esperanto.* Sed, en plu largha senco, ni ne povas dedichi, ni ne povas oferi, ni ne povas sanktigi tiun chi teron. La kuraghaj viroj, vivantaj kaj mortintaj, kiuj batalis tie chi, sanktigis ghin jam lau grado multe pli alta ol per kia ajn nia penado ni povus pliigi au malpliigi.

(To be continued)

### Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Will you please call attention to "Open Air Crusaders," a report of the Elizabeth McCormick Open Air school, together with a general account of open air school work in Chicago and a chapter on school ventilation, which will be supplied free to libraries and clubs upon application to the United Charities, 51 La Salle street, Chicago.

E. G. ROUTZAHN.

H. R. Hunting Company, Springfield, Mass., has issued a list of books for children, bound in re-enforced cloth publishers' decorated covers, according to specification of the A. L. A. binding committee. Alcott, Baldwin, Beard, Brooks, Frost, Joel Harris, Lang, Lanier, Beatrix Potter, Poulsson, Pyle, Scudder, Seton, Sidney, Tomlinson and Wiggin are some of the authors represented.

## Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- -	\$8 a year
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**Larger Membership for A. L. A.**—Let every member obligate himself to bring at least one new member into A. L. A. during the present year, and every library of 4000v. should be a member. Why not?

**A plea for old books**—In view of the high price asked for low fiction, the following from an Iowa editor expresses the feeling of many readers and might be considered a good suggestion for public libraries:

If all the writers of books would stop for 20 years, it would be a good thing. That would give opportunity for return to the treasures that now are buried beneath the rubbish. That would conduce to a perspective in literature, now lost to most of us. The same end could be brought about by a resolve on the part of the people to buy no new books and to read some old ones. The new book is a sham, a fake and a fraud. It isn't even well bound. It is showy, to be sure—that first, last and always, but it is not substantially hung together. It resembles its contents.

Who is to blame? All of us. Those who are defrauded, as well as those defrauding—writers, publishers, readers. You might say a

word on behalf of the exception among the new books. Yes, but if necessary, forego that, too, to be rid of the rest. It is possibly dangerous to attempt selection. Beware the best sellers. Try something printed not less than 50 years ago. Reach back to a time when a book was a book.

**American Ideals**—Attention is called to the paper by Dr. Wendell in this number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, which has a timely supplement in "Helps in government and language," a list of books prepared by the Buffalo public library. The conversion of the foreigner, with his ideas of a divinely appointed ruler and law giver, with his varied customs, languages, manners and degrees of spirituality, etc., into the ideal American, not the American most in evidence, is a work, a good share of which belongs to the public library. Here, indeed, is a field where the librarian is justified in going far, to bring clear notions and great ideas of "the home of the brave and the land of the free" to the new citizens, lest their idea of the land of the brave should be translated into defiance of the law, and the home of the free mean to them license instead of liberty.

It is a plain fact, that can be demonstrated in communities where foreign-born people live in a mass, that the foreigner oftentimes, restrained by the better ideals which he absorbed in his own country, is found to be a better citizen in that community than the second or third generation of his kind, who have thrown off the restraining forces which acted upon their forebears, and have not gained ideals of faith, duty, honor, faithfulness and loyalty to law of which there is much boasting generally. But boasting is often poorly supported by concrete examples of the everyday citizen. It certainly lies within the power of the

library to present illustrations in literature of the desirable qualities of the American citizen, even though it should be a hard task to point out in the surrounding community those who fulfill these ideals in their daily walk. Such training, indeed, is oftentimes needed by the sons and daughters of those who might be Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. Such work truly belongs to the formative period of the impressionable years, and if it is not well done then, the toll for the neglect will surely be gathered in later years.

**State libraries in Illinois**—A bill to organize a Legislative and municipal reference bureau has been introduced into the general assembly of Illinois. (See page 102. For many reasons, one can but hope that the bill will pass, though it is a disappointment that no notice is taken therein of the library machinery, which already belongs to the state of Illinois, and which so sadly needs reorganization and adjustment. It has been said that the library tone and spirit of Illinois is probably the least advanced in the group of states of the Northwest Territory, and this, not because the machinery for advancement is not at hand, but, as is clearly recognized, because personalities and politics play a large part in the state management of them. Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana have their library machinery which supplies the state, so well in hand that the details of its work are matters of public knowledge generally, and the library institutions supported by these states are live, active organizations whose work reflects credit on the states which support them. One might cite California, New York, Massachusetts and other far-away states as splendid examples also.

Illinois has a state law library, a state

historical society library, a state library and a state traveling library commission, all separate institutions, not one of which meets adequately the needs of the state in these lines. The prevailing spirit back of all of these is politics, and while exception must be made for a few who are trying hard and are actually doing work in some of them, politics rules their governance. Now comes a bill by a very able man to work out still another library unit to care for the reference work of the legislature, and the state generally. The legislative and municipal reference department is to be primarily established at the University of Illinois at Urbana, but will have another office at Springfield, probably at the State library or the State law library, though one may guess from the well-known intelligence of the author of the bill that he would attempt to save the proposed department from either of them. There is little known in library circles about the State law library, though there is no question that a legislative reference library will need the use of many of the books to be had in a law library. If the Legislative reference department is to be made a part of the State library, it adds another to the many potent reasons why the State library of Illinois should be a separate department of the state, independent of any political office, instead of being, as it has been from the beginning, under the disadvantage of changing political influences. Many persons interested had hoped that the time when the problem would be properly disposed of would come in providing for the much-needed reference "bureau," but evidently, even the author of the present bill, fine and strong as he is, does not care to take it up.

### Gift of the Edward E. Ayer Collection to the Newberry Library

For 15 years the Newberry library has had the use of E. E. Ayer's splendid collection of books and manuscripts relating to the early history of North America and the North American Indians. Mr Ayer's original intention was to have the collection pass into the possession of the Newberry library after his death, upon certain prescribed conditions. Recently, however, he came to the conclusion that he would like to have the transfer made during his lifetime and give his personal attention to the settlement of the various details connected therewith. Accordingly, he has now formally transferred to the trustees of the library as a gift his entire collection, and the library is now the possessor of perhaps the choicest collection of books and manuscripts on its particular subject ever gathered by a private individual in this country.

No general description can do justice to the value of the collection, and no general statement can adequately set forth its importance to historical scholars. It may safely be said, however, that no future historian of American history, and no serious writer who desires to study the history of the aborigines of North America can make his book an authoritative one without having consulted the Ayer collection in the Newberry library.

In forming this collection Mr Ayer has kept two chief aims steadily in view, 1) to secure all possible original editions of books, manuscripts or transcripts of original manuscripts, which, taken collectively, should form the sources for the history of the first discovery, explorations and settlement of every 100 square miles of the North American continent; 2) to procure all obtainable books, manuscripts, etc., which record the first contact of the white man with every known tribe of North American Indians, and to show how the white man thereafter treated the Indians, how they treated him, the results of his settlement among them, and what the later history or fate of each Indian tribe was.

The printed records of the gradual dis-

covery and settlement of the various parts of our country are here in rich abundance. The original narratives of every explorer of any importance or significance from Columbus to Lewis and Clark are here in their earliest and rarest forms, as well as the latest annotated editions brought out by modern scholars. The rarest nuggets of early printed Americana, the prizes for which such giants among collectors as Henry Stevens, John Carter Brown, James Lenox, George Brinley and Henry C. Murphy have striven in the book markets of two continents, are nearly all in the Ayer collection in spotless and immaculate copies.

One of the strongest departments is that which relates to the activities and share of the Jesuits and the French in North American exploration. Mr Ayer's collection of the so-called "Jesuit Relations" is one of the most complete that has ever been made. These were the annual reports which each Jesuit missionary was required to make, giving a detailed account of his work and journeys. Their publication began in 1632 and continued until 1673. Their value and importance as historical documents are so great and the original editions are so scarce that many reprints of them have been made during the last 60 years, but even these reprints are becoming scarce. It goes without saying that the collection contains the original narratives of Champlain, La Salle, Sagard, Tonti, Charlevoix, etc., in the earliest and latest editions. These printed sources are supplemented by manuscripts written by the Jesuits and a splendid set of transcripts of maps whose originals are in the French government archives, which transcripts the historian, Pierre Margay, intended but failed to use in his monumental work on the French discoveries and settlements in North America.

As indicating the completeness with which the text of an explorer's narrative may be studied in this collection, it need only be said, for example, that it includes every important edition of such works as Lescarbot's "Histoire de la Nouvelle France," eight editions of Champlain, 20

editions of Hennepin, 27 editions of Jonathan Carver's Travels, 21 editions of Lewis and Clark's famous account of their great journey, etc.

That portion of the Ayer collection which relates especially to the Indians compels admiration by reason of its wonderful extent and degree of completeness. On the linguistic side alone it numbers no less than 2500 v., illustrating the languages of some 215 tribes. There are superb copies of the Eliot Indian Bible in both the first and second editions, dated 1663 and 1685, respectively, as well as the first edition of his Indian New Testament, printed in 1661. A manuscript Bible in the Aztec language, written by Molina in 1560, is another treasure. Sixteen volumes of manuscripts relating to the Cherokee Indians, written by John Howard Payne (the author of "Home, Sweet Home"), who spent many years among them, form source material of great value for the study of their manners, customs, etc. Of printed narratives of white captives taken by the Indians there are 206 individual works, and in addition many other similar accounts published in collections, etc.

Among the illustrative material relating to Central America are the original drawings used to illustrate Holme's great work describing the 28 prehistoric cities of Central America and Yucatan. There are also 400 original drawings of the antiquities, monuments and scenes of the same region made by Waldeck, a German artist, who spent 12 years there.

In maps, atlases and literature of cartography in general the collection is extremely rich. About 5000 maps have been indexed thus far, but a fourth part of the collection yet remains to be done. It contains, probably, the finest collection in America of manuscript sailing charts of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the so-called portolanos.

The Ayer set of the various editions of Ptolemy's geographical works is without question the most complete in the world. In 1884 the Murphy set of Ptolemy's works, which numbered 26 editions, was said to be the finest in the

United States. The Ayer set numbers 61 printed editions, ranging in date from 1475 to 1828, and six manuscript versions, the earliest of which is in the original Greek and was written about 1280.

In 1898, immediately upon the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, Mr Ayer extended the range of his collection so as to include the Philippine and the Hawaiian Islands. In an incredibly short space of time he brought together an astonishingly complete collection of original manuscripts, printed books, engravings, photographs, etc., which provide the student with the means of studying the inhabitants, languages and history of our new island possessions from their earliest discovery down to modern times. There are over 1000 transcripts of manuscripts whose originals can only be seen in the Spanish, the Philippine and other official archives. The collection contains 8000 photographs of Philippine scenes and subjects, divided into 37 linguistic groups, illustrating every phase of life, habits, manners and customs of the natives from the wild head hunters of the jungle to the Europeanized Filipino of Manila. At almost a single stroke the Ayer Philippine collection became second in importance only to the Archives of the Indies in Seville.

Within the last 10 days, Mr Ayer has purchased the transcripts of between 2000 and 3000 manuscripts made by Agnes C. Laut from the originals in the possession of the Hudson's Bay Company in London, the great majority of which have never yet been used for historical purposes. While there has not as yet, of course, been an opportunity to examine this collection minutely, it is safe to say that it will be a necessary source for all future writers on the history of the Dominion of Canada. So far as is known, Miss Laut is the only historical student who has ever been granted prolonged access to these Hudson's Bay archives.

On being asked recently what his underlying motive had been in devoting so much of his life and so princely an expenditure to gathering this precious collection, Mr Ayer replied: "I just wanted

to be useful. Having been denied the advantages of an education in my youth, largely because what I wanted was not then obtainable in the West, I felt that I was under obligations to do what I could to provide for those coming after me better opportunities than I had had. I wanted to do something to give earnest students in this great middle-western region facilities for research and study which should be second to none in this country." This generous and unselfish purpose he has assuredly carried out, and the gift of his collection to the Newberry library places the community in lasting debt to him. The trustees in accepting the collection have made suitable provision for its perpetual increase and proper maintenance. Mr Ayer has set an example which it is hoped may be emulated by others of our prominent citizens whose private collections in fields other than Americana are known to be among the finest in the world, and the dispersal of which in the auction room would be a calamity to scholarship and letters. Their natural and most fitting home, like that of the Ayer collection, is in a public institution where a grateful posterity may enjoy and profit by them.

### Misdirection of Effort in Reference Work\*

John Cotton Dana, Newark, N. J.

Every library desires to give the amplest attention possible to inquiries addressed to it.

Every library discovers that a complete answer to certain inquiries would require an expenditure of time beyond its means and a neglect of fair attention to others.

It must draw the line 1) at any expenditure upon inquiries of a certain class; 2) at more than a "reasonable" expenditure upon the others.

Is there any basis upon which inquiries of class 1) can be defined, or upon which the reasonableness of the ex-

penditure of the others can be determined?

We are apt to say, "Why, yes; the importance of the inquiry." But upon whose judgment is the "importance" to depend?—upon that of the inquirer? But to every inquirer his question of the moment is the most important affair of the moment. Upon the judgment of the attendant?—but if this judgment be purely his personal impression it may be less than fair to the inquirer or less than fair to the library, for it will represent merely his personal interest, knowledge or experience.

Are there any general canons which can be laid down for him?

I think there are; depending

A. Upon the subject-matter: its claim.

B. Upon the inquirer: his claim.

C. Upon the possibility of success.

A. The subject-matter.

The claims for this may be ranked, for instance:

1) Inquiries whose answers may widen the boundaries of knowledge (i. e., human knowledge).

2) Inquiries whose answers may promote or convenience

a) The public service;

b) The service of a profession;

c) The practice of an art;

d) The operations of a business.

3) Inquiries whose answers may be instructive to a group (i. e., society or club) engaged in serious study (though not in research).

4) Inquiries whose answers may be similarly instructive to an individual student (whose object is improvement, but merely his own improvement).

5) Inquiries issuing out of a zest for cultivation as distinguished from a labor for knowledge.

6) Inquiries purely recreative—a subdivision of which would be those issuing out of prize contests and even those for genealogical information, when purely personal and dilettante.

7) Inquiries obviously frivolous.

If the above should be the relative rank of those inquiries in a hierarchy of "importance," it does not mean that this

\*Notes of talk before American Library Institute at Mackinac meeting, July, 1910.

†That is, the direct search. An indication of the authorities which the reader may consult is, of course, inevitable.

should determine their priority in order of treatment. As to this, for instance, the four groups under 2) would probably be reversed: the business man must have his answer first, partly because his practical need is immediate and for an immediate "practical" application; while the needs of the other groups are apt to be more leisurely, and with a general rather than a particular purpose; but also because the business man's interest in the library is especially to be cultivated since he, particularly, supports it.

B. He, therefore, has a claim irrespective of the importance of the subject-matter in which he is interested. A trustee of the library would also have a claim, or one specially introduced by him, and any other person (official of the government, members of the city council, etc.). So also would unofficial benefactors of the library, actual or prospective.

To give a measure of preference to such persons, to stretch a rule or practice in their behalf, is to "favor" them at the expense of others, but they are not so numerous or their calls so frequent that the expense (to others) would be substantial or perceived.

At all events, the concession is inevitable, and the expenditure which it entails may justly be charged to "advertising," or rather to demonstration (i. e., of the utility of the library), to persons whose interest and influence are important but the opportunity for convincing them slight, since the contacts are so few.

C. The probability of success, or rather of failure, must be held in view; for no librarian is honest in pushing the search of his own collections beyond the point where they may be expected to yield an adequate answer. If fairly certain that they will not, his honest duty is to refer the inquirer to those which will.

Mr. Dana's main points were two:

1. The undue waste of library time, under present practice, in searching for answers to questions of trivial importance. The criticism is just. The practice is due to zeal for the inquirer, to zeal in the pursuit, to vanity in the success; but also to a lack of sense of propor-

tion, or of criteria to which to refer. To most reference attendants a question is a question, and it must be answered to the limit or the library will seem churlish or inefficient.

It may be a token of a higher efficiency for the library to inform the inquirer 1) that the question is one that cannot be answered adequately there (but may be in such another institution, bureau or office elsewhere), or 2) that it is a question the answer to which may exist in designated material but must be sought by himself; or 3) that the library time already put upon it has now reached the limit of what can be expended without injustice to other work or other readers. For as the "liberty of one citizen ends where the liberty of the next begins," so the privilege of one reader must end where the privilege of the next begins.

2. Mr Dana's second thesis was that the prime duty of the library was not to answer the question, but to instruct the inquirer in the use of the material by which he may secure the answer for himself. Perhaps he will develop this. There was some dissent from it and an attempt at a distinction (at least) between the academic library, or any library serving a constituency engaged in formal instruction of which the use of a library may be part, and a library maintained by the community at large whose constituency is the general public, the latter expecting of it the service of a bureau of information.

The question of relative importance was a disputed factor.

In his booklet on "Huxley and education," Prof. Henry Fairfield Osborn has spoken a noble, illuminating word. Like William James, he has none of the timidities of the pedant. He has no fear of things racy or homespun. The supreme end of education is the outgiving energy. In his own words, the educated man is he who follows his standards of truth and beauty, who employs his learning and observation, his reason, his experience for purposes of production, that is, to add something of his own to the stock of the world's ideas.—John Graham Brooks.

## Books that Boys Like\*

Abbott, J. S. C.—Hernando Cortez.  
 Alger—Helping himself.  
 Bates and Coman—English history told by American poets.  
 Brooks—Master of the stronghearts.  
 Browning—Boys' Browning.  
 Bullen—Cruisè of the "Cachelot."  
 Burt—Poems that every child should know.  
 Buxton—Stories of early England.  
 Coffin—Old times in the colonies.  
 Cook—Stories of the Old Dominion.  
 Crockett—Red cap adventures; Nine-teen stories from Scott.  
 Custer (Mrs.)—Following the guidon; Tenting on the plains.  
 Drake—Border wars of New England.  
 Duncan—Adventures of Billy Topsail.  
 Edgar (comp.)—Struggle for a continent.  
 Eggleston and Seelye—Brant and Red Jacket.  
 Eggleston and Seelye—Montezuma.  
 English—Boys' book of battle lyrics.  
 Fosdick—Frank on the prairie.  
 Grinnell—Folklore and legends.  
 Henty—With Wolfe in Canada.  
 Hough—Story of the cowboy.  
 Kipling—Captains courageous.  
 Marden—Pushing to the front.  
 Munroe—White conquerors.  
 Parkman—Oregon trail.  
 Parkman—Montcalm and Wolfe.  
 Peary—Farthest North.  
 Prescott—Conquest of Mexico.  
 Remington—Sketches of Western life.  
 Richardson—Stories from Old English poetry.  
 Rothschild—Lincoln, leader of men.  
 Scollard—Ballads of American bravery.  
 Scott's poems—Lay of the last minstrel; Lady of the lake.  
 Scott—Talisman; Ivanhoe; Quentin Durward.  
 Washington—Up from slavery.  
 Wright—Children's stories from English literature.

\*See page 120.

## Books for a Girl's Pleasure

Aldrich—Marjorie Daw.  
 Allen—A Kentucky cardinal.  
 Andrews—Perfect tribute.  
 Austen—Pride and prejudice.  
 Austin—Betty Alden.  
 Barrie—Little minister.  
 Blackmore—Lorna Doone.  
 Browning—Pied piper of Hamelin.  
 Bulwer-Lytton—Last days of Pompeii.  
 Byron—Prisoner of Chillon.  
 Cooper—Last of the Mohicans.  
 Craik—John Halifax, Gentleman.  
 D'Arblay—Diary and letters.  
 Dickens—David Copperfield; Tale of two cities.  
 Dumas—Count of Monte Cristo.  
 Ebers—Uarda.  
 Eliot—Adam Bede; Mill on the floss; Silas Marner.  
 Gaskell—Cranford.  
 Gates—Biography of a prairie girl.  
 Gordon—Black rock; Sky pilot.  
 Hawthorne—House of seven gables; Scarlet letter.  
 Howells—Rise of Silas Lapham.  
 Hugo—Les Misérables.  
 Jackson—Ramona.  
 Jewett—Country doctor.  
 Kipling—Captains courageous.  
 Krasinska—Journal of the Countess Krasinska.  
 Longfellow—Evangeline.  
 Meredith—Lucile.  
 Montgomery—Anne of Green Gables.  
 Page—Red rock.  
 Palmer—Life of Alice Freeman Palmer.  
 Reade—Cloister and the hearth.  
 Scott—Ivanhoe.  
 Shakespeare—As you like it; King Lear; Romeo and Juliet.  
 Stevenson—Treasure island; Silverado squatters.  
 Tennyson—Lady of Shalott.  
 Thackeray—Newcomes.  
 Twain—Prince and pauper; Tom Sawyer.  
 Van Arnim—Elizabeth and her German garden.  
 Wallace—Ben Hur.

Wiggins—Rebecca of Sunnybrook farm.

Wister—Virginian.

Wright—Garden of a commuter's wife.—Public library, Mankato, Minn.

### Good Books for Children

Adams—Harper's machinery book for boys.

Bancroft—Games for playground, home, school and gymnasium.

Brown—John of the woods.

Buckley—Children of the dawn.

Defoe—Robinson Crusoe. Ill. by E. Boyd Smith.

Delacombe—Boy's book of airships.

DuBois—Lass of the silver sword.

Duncan—When mother lets us garden.

Faris—Winning their way.

Finnemore—Wolf patrol.

Gulick—Emergencies.

Higgins—Little gardens for boys and girls.

Hutchinson—Orpheus with his lute.

Jewett—Body at work.

McDonald and Dalrymple (Little people everywhere)—Kathleen in Ireland;

Ume San in Japan; Manuel in Mexico; Rafael in Italy.

Montgomery—Anne of Avonlea.

Moses—Louisa Alcott.

Nicolay—Boy's life of U. S. Grant.

Richards—Florence Nightingale.

Roger—Trees every child should know.

Zollinger—A boy's ride.

### Helps in Government and Language for Immigrants\*

#### Government

##### General

Civic reader for new Americans. American Book Company; 38 cents.

Howard, Daniel. American history, government and institutions: a manual of citizenship for young Americans and new Americans. Windsor Locks, Conn. Author; 65 cents.

Marriott, Crittenden. How Americans are governed in nation. Harper; \$1.25.

Marriott, Crittenden. Uncle Sam's business told to young Americans. Harper; \$1.25.

Reinsch, P. S. Young citizen's reader. Sanborn; 60 cents.

\*It is requested that others who know of additional titles of books that have been duly tested will kindly send them to Mrs. H. L. Elmendorf, Public library, Buffalo, N. Y.

Richman, Julia, and I. R. Wallach. Good citizenship. American Book Company; 45 cents.

##### Italian

Carr, J. F. Guida degli stati Uniti per l'immigranti italiano. Doubleday; 10 cents.

##### Yiddish

Harkavy, Alexander. Der citizen: wie man kann weren a bürger von United States. Hebrew Publishing Company.

##### Pamphlets

Forlong, C. J. Our future citizens: how to become a citizen under the laws of naturalization. Author; Buffalo.

Severance, Mary F. Guide to American citizenship.

United States. Bureau of immigration and naturalization. Information for immigrants concerning the United States, its opportunities, government and institutions. (Originally issued by the Sons of the American Revolution, in several languages.)

### Teaching of English

#### General

Adkins, F. J. An English course for evening students. Sonnenschein; 2s.-6d.

Chancellor, W. E. Reading and language lessons for evening schools. American Book Company; 30 cents.

Chancellor, W. E. Studies in English for evening schools. American Book Company; 30 cents.

Cunningham, C. J. First book for non-English-speaking people. Heath; 25 cents.

Faustine, Madeline. A new reader for evening schools. Hinds; 50 cents.

Harrington, W. L. and A. C. Moore. Second book for non-English-speaking people. Heath; 35 cents.

Hülshot, J. L. Reading made easy for foreigners: 1st-3d readers. Hinds; 30, 40, 50 cents.

Mintz, Frances S. The new American citizen: a reader for foreigners. Macmillan; 50 cents.

New York City. Department of Education. Instructions to principals and teachers engaged

ing elementary schools.

O'Brien, Sara R. English for foreigners. Houghton; 50 cents.

Roberts, Peter. Reader for coming Americans: readings and language lessons in history, industries and government. Y. M. C. A. Press, New York; 50 cents.

Thorley, W. C. Primer of English for foreign students. Macmillan; 2s.-6d.

Wallach, Isabel R. First and second books in English designed especially for foreigners. Silver; 42, 50 cents.

##### Hungarian

Kohányi, Tihamér. Angol nyelvmester: English language master. Liberty Press; Cleveland.

**Italian**

Blount, Carlo. The right way to learn English (La vera via per imparare l'inglese). Napoli. Autore; \$1.75.

Gaudenzi, Angelo de. Nouvissima grammatica accelerata italiana-inglese. A. de Gaudenzi & Co., N. Y.; \$1.25.

Gurrin, T. E. Grammatica inglese: nuovo método practico de Hossfeld para aprender el inglés. Hirschfeld, N. Y.: 60 cents.

Moore, S. W. *Libro illustrato di lingua inglese*: an illustrated English-Italian language book and reader. Heath; 30 cents.

**Polish**

Berger, Hugo. *Latwa metoda gruntownego nauczania sie w kótkim czasie języka angielskiego*. Gebethner. Warsaw; \$1.25.

Dyniewicz, Wladyslaw. *Posrednik Polsko-Angielski*. W. Dyniewicz, Chicago.

**Yiddish**

Harkavy, Alexander. *Der englisch lehrer*. Hebrew Publishing Company; 21 cents.

Rombro, Jacob. *Krantz's English teacher*. Werbelowsky, N. Y.; 52 cents.

**A Plan for Foreign Book-buying**

A plan has been entered into by The John Crerar library, the Newberry library, Northwestern university library, the University of Chicago libraries and Harvard university libraries by which a trial of the purchase of books is to be made by a representative acting for the institutions named, instead of through the usual channels. It is planned that the chairman of the committee, Dr Walter Lichtenstein of the Northwestern university, shall go abroad in the summer of 1911 as a representative of the several libraries for a limited time, five months, and within a limited area. The chairman will take abroad with him lists of desiderata of the libraries represented, and if the experiment proves a success it may grow into a permanent arrangement. It is proposed that all the libraries cooperating in the purchases, shall also ship the same together. It is planned that the representative buyer shall receive a compensation for the five months of \$2500, which same is to include all traveling expenses of every kind. This expense shall be assumed by the cooperating libraries in proportion. The libraries interested expect to get material amounting from \$15,000 to \$20,000. They feel it would be desirable to have other libraries join

them to a total of \$25,000. A certain amount of cash will have to be furnished in addition, and the remittance needed can be supplied as needed, or through letters of credit.

**A Comparison of Library Statistics**

The following comparison of library statistics of the 10 largest cities in the United States was prepared carefully by a prominent librarian in connection with an effort to secure local library legislation. Aside from the census population figures, the statistics were in all cases furnished directly by the librarian of each library named:

**Comparison of library statistics of the ten largest cities in the United States****Population, 1910 census:**

*1. New York	4,766,883
2. Chicago	2,185,283
3. Philadelphia	1,549,008
4. St. Louis	687,029
5. Boston	670,585
6. Cleveland	560,663
7. Baltimore	558,485
*8. Pittsburg	533,905
9. Buffalo	423,715
10. Cincinnati	364,463

**Number of volumes in library:**

*1. New York	2,430,786
2. Boston	987,268
3. Chicago	430,578
4. Cleveland	417,945
5. Cincinnati	391,680
6. Philadelphia	366,985
*7. Pittsburg	339,672
8. St. Louis	327,917
9. Buffalo	284,176
10. Baltimore	276,849

**Books issued for home use:**

*1. New York	12,322,064
2. Cleveland	2,237,707
3. Chicago	2,013,000
4. Philadelphia	1,863,007
5. St. Louis	1,822,000
6. Boston	1,602,000
7. Buffalo	1,368,425

**\*New York statistics itemized:**

Population:		Books issued:	
Manhattan	2,331,542	New York P.	
Bronx	430,980	L. (serves	
Richmond	85,969	Manhattan,	
Brooklyn	1,634,351	Bronx, Rich-	
Queens	284,041	mond)	7,506,976
Number of volumes in		Brooklyn	4,066,024
library:		Queens	749,064
New York		Circulation per capita:	
P. L.	1,619,228	New York P. L.	2.64
Brooklyn	682,646	Queens	2.64
Queens	128,912	Brooklyn	2.49

**†Greater Pittsburg itemized:**

Population:		Books issued:	
Old Pittsburg	401,622	Old Pittsburg	1,133,587
Allegheny	132,283	Allegheny	169,111
Number of volumes in		Circulation per capita:	
library:		Old Pittsburg	2.8
Old Pittsburg	340,209	Allegheny	1.3
Allegheny	71,776		

8. Cincinnati .....	1,358,890
9. Pittsburgh .....	1,118,824
10. Baltimore .....	716,071

## Circulation per capita:

1. Cleveland .....	3.99
2. Buffalo .....	3.23
3. Cincinnati .....	2.93
4. St. Louis .....	2.65
*5. New York .....	2.58
6. Boston .....	2.39
7. Pittsburgh .....	2.1
8. Baltimore .....	1.28
9. Philadelphia .....	1.20
10. Chicago .....	.92

In connection with estimates for appropriations the annual report of the District of Columbia library points out that in the face of large increases in the work of the library the appropriations have for three years remained almost stationary; also that, as compared with other most progressive American municipalities, Washington's public library expenditures form a disproportionately small part of the expenditures of the District of Columbia. From Census bureau statistics it is shown that District of Columbia devotes but 0.7 per cent of its municipal expenditures to the library, whereas the average of the public library expenditures of the 15 largest American cities is 1.3 per cent of their total municipal expenditures. The census report shows such cities as Detroit and Newark devoting 1.6 per cent of total municipal maintenance expenses to their public libraries; Cleveland and Cincinnati, 2.3 per cent; Pittsburgh, 2.6 per cent; Grand Rapids, 3 per cent, and Springfield, Mass., 3.2 per cent. Could Washington in its library expenses be enabled to measure up to the average of these cities it would expend, instead of \$66,582 shown by the report, not less than \$104,000; if it could pattern after Cleveland and Cincinnati it would devote \$184,000 a year to library expenses.

A state law in Vermont passed in 1908 provides that the expenses of a librarian in attendance at the institutes held by the state board of library commissions, may be paid by the town, city or incorporated village in which such librarian is employed.

When the foundation is well laid, as is being done in Vermont, the superstructure will be strong.

## A. L. A. Meeting, 1911

It has finally been decided that the meeting of the American library association will begin at Pasadena, May 18. The rate from Chicago to Pasadena and return will be \$72.50, tickets good until July 31. This is a rate within a few dollars of that which has been granted the N. E. A. The May date seems much preferable, especially for southern California and the comfort of the journey, and will not prevent many even of the college librarians from attending. A number of the latter have stated that they would go in May, whereas it was impossible to attend in June or July, owing to special summer work. I state this as an offset to the protest made in February PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The rates from eastern points have not been definitely settled, but it may be stated that the personally conducted trip will cost, from New York, between \$240 and \$250, including everything but the stay at Pasadena. The trip from Chicago with this party will cost \$196. A special train will start from Chicago, composed of Pullman compartment car, regular Pullmans with drawing rooms, special diner, observation car, buffet-smoker, and a high-back day coach.

Various arrangements can be made with regard to accommodations, which will increase very slightly or decrease considerably the cost of the trip. All who expect to go with the special party are asked to send \$5 deposit, or first payment on ticket, to F. W. Faxon, Chairman of committee, 83 Francis street, Boston, Mass., and state exactly what accommodations are desired. The matter of roommates should be given special attention, and taken up definitely with the travel secretary.

The Yosemite trip will add five days of time and \$45 to the cost. If sufficient number desire this trip, a personally conducted return trip will be made through Colorado, following Yosemite, and covering the same features as outlined for the main party. This party will be in personal charge of Mr Faxon.

Those desiring to go out with the

special party, and return by themselves, either from Pasadena or San Francisco, will be accommodated. Further details will appear in the next issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES and in the March A. L. A. Bulletin.

### League of Library Commissions

#### Meeting of Eastern section

The meeting of the Eastern section of the League of library commissions was called to order in the lecture room of the Boston public library Friday morning, January 27, by State-librarian Chas. Belden, chairman of the Massachusetts Free library commission. Mr Belden briefly explained the purposes of the meeting. Josiah H. Benton, president of the board of trustees of the Boston public library, in a few words of welcome advanced a plea for greater coöperation and consultation between the librarian and the library trustee.

After Mr Benton's address, Hiller C. Wellman, vice-president of the League of library commissions, took the chair. Clara F. Baldwin, president of the League of library commissions, was present and gave a brief history of the League and an excellent résumé of the work that it had accomplished. Her talk brought forth many questions, especially that part of it which related to the publications of the League, and the necessity of preventing, if possible, duplication of similar lists by different commissions.

After this discussion the chairman called upon representatives from each state present to tell about recent phases of commission work. Delegates from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont reported, and by far the greater part of both morning and afternoon sessions was taken up with these interesting reports. Connecticut reported that it had tried sending out a wagon with books on a plan similar to that adopted by Miss Titcomb, in Hagerstown, Md. New York reported that the fee hitherto charged for traveling libraries had been

greatly reduced, and Massachusetts that Zaidee Brown had been appointed as secretary to give her full time to commission work. All the reports were interesting and brought forth much discussion which was of unquestionable value to all present. Not the least interesting was Miss Loring's account of the work of the volunteer visitors to Massachusetts libraries.

The meeting closed with a discussion of a library post, and it was voted that the meeting endorse the action of the Chicago meeting relating to this subject.

On the social side Boston fully lived up to its reputation for cordial hospitality. Those members of the League who were in Boston on Thursday night attended a dinner at Young's hotel, given by the Massachusetts library club, and listened to a fine address by Prof. Bliss Perry of Harvard. On Friday, Miss Sawyer and Miss Loring entertained the members at luncheon at the Mayflower club.

### New Library Clubs

#### Syracuse (N. Y.) library club

On the evening of January 23, the Syracuse library club was organized at the Syracuse public library at a meeting attended by 20 representatives of the 10 libraries of Syracuse and its suburbs. As officers were elected: President, Dr E. W. Mundy, head of the Public library; vice-president, George N. Cheney, librarian of the Court of Appeals law library; secretary-treasurer, Edith E. Clarke, of the Syracuse university library. Paul M. Paine and Caroline Wandell were elected to act as a committee on program in conjunction with the secretary, all five together forming the executive committee.

The general subject of the meeting was, What the Syracuse libraries are doing, Dr Mundy and Frank W. Marlow, in charge of the library of the Medical college of Syracuse university, each speaking for his respective library. The secretary outlined the objects and plans of the organization. The project of the club has aroused much enthusiasm and a number

of others besides those present are pledged as members.

E. E. CLARKE, Sec'y.

#### **Toronto public library association**

In February, 1910, the members of the Toronto public library staff met and formed an association to hold regular monthly meetings throughout the year. The purpose of this association primarily was to discuss any problems that might arise in the work and library matters generally, its aim being to render the service of the library more efficient. In a library with so many branches and departments it was felt that some such common discussion of the work was necessary in order to keep these branches and departments in close touch. The more thoroughly each understands the work of the others related more or less closely to it the more intelligent the work of each assistant is, and the more efficient the library as a whole becomes.

During the year the plan has been to have the work in each department explained by a member of that department and the result has been most satisfactory. Papers have been given on, The Dewey decimal system of classification, which is the system used in the reference library; The work in the reference department; The new system of registration; Rules and regulations; The children's department; Newspapers and periodicals; Branch work, and The open-shelf system.

In the case of registration, possibly more than in any other, the association has proved its worth, for with the complete change in method came many new problems, and by a free discussion of them in the meetings, not only were they solved but the whole system became clearer to all assistants.

Two of the meetings have been of a social nature and a special meeting was called in December at which Chief-librarian Locke gave a talk on his summer abroad.

The average attendance at these meetings, of which there have been nine, has been 32 from a membership list of 36, which shows the interest taken.

#### **Library Meetings**

**Arkansas**—The first meeting of the Arkansas library association was held in Little Rock; January 26, at the Little Rock public library, the result of the co-operation of the public libraries of Fort Smith and Little Rock. The meeting consisted of two sessions. The first session was called to order by Maud M. Pugsley, librarian of the Little Rock public library, followed by invocation by the Rev. Bishop Morris and the singing "America."

Mrs Logan H. Roots, prominent in social and club circles and representative of one of the South's oldest families, made the address of welcome, to which Caroline V. Langworthy, librarian of the Fort Smith library, responded.

At the business session, including the formal organization of the Arkansas library association, adoption of the constitution, the following officers were elected: C. W. L. Armour, Fort Smith, president; Mrs Lora Goolsby, Waldron, vice-president; Maud M. Pugsley, Little Rock, secretary; Caroline V. Langworthy, Fort Smith, treasurer. These four officers, with Mr Simmons, librarian of Hendrix college, Conway, constitute the executive committee.

It was decided that the first matter to be taken up should be the securing of better library legislation for the state; to this end, a legislative committee was appointed. Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, who was present as the official representative of the American library association, was made an honorary member of the association. Six towns were represented, Arkadelphia, Conway, Helena, Fort Smith, Little Rock and Waldron.

In his address, Mr Bostwick laid stress on the number of small subscription libraries in the state and advised that the first effort should be along the line of turning these over to the public charge on condition that they should receive public support.

The evening session opened with a reception given to the Arkansas library association and its friends by the trustees

of the Little Rock public library. The reception committee, of which Mrs John Fletcher, state president of the Arkansas Federation of women's clubs, was chairman, consisted of representatives from all local societies and organizations. Hon. G. W. Donaghey, governor of Arkansas, presided, and introduced the speakers: C. W. L. Armour spoke for the Fort Smith library, Mrs Carl Voss for the work of the women, J. N. Heiskell, editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*, for the trustees. Dr Bostwick was the special speaker of the evening, on the subject

#### The public library as a public utility

He said, in part:

The public library is not only a public utility, but it is conspicuous among public utilities for its freedom from outside influence, its lack of prejudice, its readiness to give both sides a chance. This makes it more truly "public," in the broadest sense of the word, than any other utility. Our privately owned utilities, even where they have come more or less under public control or regulation—our great commercial utilities, even our great non-public educational institutions, are never broadly public in this sense. Without disparaging them in any way, it may be asserted that even where private interest does not dominate them they are generally identified with some party or denomination—in other words, they are one-sided. The public press, which should be a public bulwark, is generally the organ of party—too often that of private interest. Librarians have recently found it necessary to establish their own critical magazine for book reviews, having found the existing publications to be under the control of the publishing interests.

When we come to publicly owned utilities—waterworks, for example, and other municipal plants—we get nearer to the true public idea; but how often these are administered, not for the public good, but as an adjunct to party organization! The public school comes very nearly up to our ideal; yet I venture to say that you will not find in the New England

schools histories of the Civil War from the southern standpoint, nor in a Protestant community histories of the Reformation from the Catholic point of view.

But in the public library you may find all these, side by side. There a seeker may discover books on both sides of any controversy in which intelligent men and women may legitimately take part.

The public library has occasionally, it is true, fallen into the hands of politicians. But their efforts have been confined to the control of appointments, and disastrous though this may have been to discipline and efficiency, it has never affected the policy of the library. Republicans may have turned out efficient Democrats and substituted inefficient Republicans; but high-tariff men have never demanded that the free-trade books should be removed from the shelves. Public opinion would never tolerate such interference.

This is why I hail the library as the freest of our public utilities, and why I bid Godspeed to the newly formed Library association that is, I hope, to aid it and multiply its work in your state.

One of the most important features of the meeting was the address of Dr Bostwick before the legislature the morning following the organization. The courtesy of both houses was extended to him, each house suspending the order of business to hear him. Governor Donaghey introduced him to both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, who in turn introduced him to the members of the legislature. Dr Bostwick briefly outlined the recent library movement and prepared the legislators for library legislation, and left the thought before the members of the public utility of public libraries and the need of proper legislation to make their organization possible in Arkansas.

M. M. PUGSLEY, Sec'y.

**Chicago**—Owing to the disagreeable weather, only about 100 members and friends of the Chicago library club gathered Thursday evening, February 16, in the directors' room, Chicago public library, to listen to an address on the "Re-

lation of the library to the school," by Dr Charles Hubbard Judd, director of the School of education, University of Chicago.

In substance, Dr Judd emphasized the need of more coöperation between teachers and librarians, said that this would be brought about by a clearer understanding and recognition of the differences between and the scope of the work of each; that on "these differences must we build for coöperation and united effort." That the school must lay the foundation of the art of reading, and for the first three years the librarian could do but little until the technique of reading was mastered; then would come her opportunity to stimulate the love of reading, under wise supervision, and by carefully selected lists and fiction, books easy to read and with good pictures. That both librarian and teacher must recognize that change, too often ignored, which comes during the fifth or sixth school year, when the boy and girl wants to "do things;" now is the time for industrial training, and the opportunity for the librarian to guide toward the practical application of the art of reading—the use of books as tools; fiction for the most part being superseded by "informational reading." Dr Judd advocated greater supervision and more careful selection on the part of librarians, saying this was their privilege and not the teacher's; and he deprecated the too often "wholesale" amount of material offered. He urged that children be not forced into greater use of libraries for recreative reading, during this school age, as school work gave them about all they had time for; that this was the period when the child was being prepared for that later time when the library would carry on his education to still higher development.

The vice-president, Mr Tweedell, who presided in the absence of the president, voiced the hearty appreciation and thanks of the members to Dr Judd for his most interesting and helpful talk.

George B. Utley, the newly appointed secretary of the A. L. A., was introduced,

and in a happy little talk expressed his appreciation of his welcome to Chicago.

The meeting adjourned to greet, informally, Dr Judd and Secretary and Mrs Utley.

Four new members were elected.

JESSIE M. WOODFORD, Sec'y.

**District of Columbia**—At the annual meeting of the association the following elections were made: President, William W. Bishop; first vice-president, Willard O. Waters; second vice-president, Miss C. R. Barnett; secretary, M. N. Smull; treasurer, Miss E. A. Spilman; executive committee, Paul Brockett, J. D. Wheeler and H. H. B. Meyer.

The president, William W. Bishop, read an unusually interesting paper on "Training in the use of books." He began by describing the library of Thomas Jefferson, relating how it became the nucleus of the Library of Congress, and contrasting the library conditions of Mr Jefferson's day with the present current "literary deluge."

He gave a comprehensive outline of a course of instruction for public schools in the use of books. Mr Bishop also spoke of the indifference on the part of college and university authorities, including their librarians, toward the development of cultural reading and the sense of mastery of books.

At the January meeting of the association, the subject for the evening was "Publications of foreign governments and the means of access to the publications." Dr J. D. Thompson, chief of the division of documents of the Library of Congress, spoke of the collection of foreign documents in that library, and the indexes to them, present and prospective. This collection is disposed by subject and is about the largest in the world, numbering about 400,000. The principal sources of this material are the international exchange relationship existing between this and foreign governments; from the Department of State; by direct transmission from foreign governments; and by transfer from the different government departments and bureaus. After the documents are recorded, they are bound and

then sent through the regular courses. The best index to documents is the public catalog of the Library of Congress.

C. E. Babcock, librarian of the Pan-American Union, described the documentary collection gathered there. In order to complete their file of documents, men had been sent to Central America and to South America to procure the missing material, which is often difficult to obtain, since a number of these southern countries print but few copies of their documents, sometimes only a hundred.

Papers were read by Miss C. R. Barnett, librarian of the Department of agriculture, "The international agricultural institute of Rome," and by Miss H. W. Pierson, of the Library of Congress, on the new *Annuaire de la vie internationale*," published in Brussels.

MILTENBERGER N. SMULL, Sec'y.

**Massachusetts**—On Jan. 26, 1911, the seventy-fourth meeting of the Massachusetts library club was held at Brookline. The first session opened by Rev. Leonard K. Storrs, D. D., chairman of the trustees, welcoming the club to Brookline. In the brief business meeting which followed, resolutions were presented on the death of Deloraine P. Corey of Malden and Frances M. Mann of Dedham. The president appointed a committee to draw up resolutions on the death of James L. Whitney, of the Boston public library. A vote showed the club was almost unanimous in favor of holding a fall meeting.

#### Village libraries

The first speaker was Miss Brown, agent of the Massachusetts library commission. Miss Brown narrowed her topic of "Village libraries" to those in Massachusetts, and spoke especially of those which have a small income and are open only a part of the time. The tendency in Massachusetts to have the library supported by public money is shown by the fact that in only 17 instances the town has no connection with the library. There are libraries of less than 1000 v. in only 13 towns of those listed in the report of the commission, and many very small towns have surprisingly large collections

of books. The librarians in these villages are usually residents of the place, with little or no training; but a few figures as to salaries may modify our opinion of what should be expected of them. There are 36 towns that pay annually \$25 or less for all services, and 11 that pay not over \$100 a year. In general the village librarians earn their money. Many combine librarian's and janitor's duties and carry on their work with interest and devotion to the needs of the community. In 27 towns of less than 500 population the average number of volumes is 2130, the average circulation 1135, the average income \$98, and the salary \$22. This circulation is about 3 per capita, the average for the whole state 3 1-3, and that of a good city library (Springfield) about 7.

The needs and failings of these small libraries are: A more liberal policy, which would result in allowing more than one book to the reader, access to the shelves, a lower age limit, longer hours of opening, deposit stations and more interest in the serious and educational work of the library. A better selection of books would result in less fiction, more juveniles and a greater use of practical books, and, coupled with judicious advertising and more intelligent guidance by the librarian, would improve the quality of reading.

The commission is endeavoring, by visits and correspondence, to effect these improvements and to introduce a better organization along technical lines, such as classifying the books instead of keeping them in accession order, introducing better charging systems and some form of shelf-list or card catalog. It is the policy to encourage volunteer help for the advantages of arousing interest, the popularization of a more liberal policy and its incidental effect on circulation and individual knowledge of the books. Larger libraries are urged to cooperate with neighboring small libraries by visits, invitations to librarians and trustees to see new books and exhibits and the use of the press. The commission will be

glad to act as a clearing house for gifts which any libraries may be able to make.

J. Randolph Coolidge jr gave an illustrated talk on the

#### **Architectural character of small libraries**

The first consideration, he said, is the site. In most cases a level site is preferable, and should be large enough to afford ample grounds and suitable approaches. The building may be formal or informal in style. The former would be preferable for a memorial library, though, in general, this style demands more careful proportions and better materials. The informal style is to be given the preference for small libraries and cheap materials, but it demands a better site and larger grounds. The expression of the building should be welcome to the public, ample facilities and one single aim: to serve the public with books. Usually the building is most successful which has one dominant story and an easy entrance. The entrance, the reading room and sometimes the book room should be the significant features; art rooms, class rooms, work rooms and audience hall, all being secondary. The architectural difficulty which this plan presents is in designing a basement which will be light, but not conspicuously above ground, and a main story of exactly the right height.

The interior of the library, it is to be hoped, will have more attractiveness than usually characterizes the interior of public buildings in America. It should be sanitary, but avoid the bleakness of a hospital; capable of supervision, but not like a class room; adapted to the constant movement of people, but unlike a railroad station. The character of each separate part should be established and emphasized. In the reading room we look for readers and some few books; in the book room, books and a few readers; at the delivery desk, an air of happy despatch, and the librarian, the soul of the library; her room, the expression of her personality.

With the aid of a reflectoscope Mr Coolidge showed pictures of a number of library buildings to illustrate the points which he had made in his talk. In clos-

ing he gave a brief description of the Brookline library, pointing out the unusual feature of a double entrance, the position of the fiction shelves and the book room.

At the afternoon session Mr Swift, chairman of the committee, read the tribute to James Lyman Whitney.

The subject of the afternoon session was

#### **The library and the boy**

Charles Lamprey, of the Boston normal school, spoke of "The boy and the book." He formulated two principles for the choice of reading. First, a consciousness of progress should be felt, for it is more desirable continually to read better books than to have once read a few of the best. Second, it is better not to read at all than to read without delight. The trouble with the great mass of readers is that they never progress from the normal delight of childhood in the fanciful beyond reading which merely amuses the lighter faculties, and so become desultory readers of the novels of the day and newspapers.

The three influences which can turn a boy's reading toward something higher are the school, the library and the home. Of these the home is the ideal influence; but, that failing, the school and the library remain. Much can be accomplished by the teachers through the school curriculum, and the specific function of the libraries is coöperation in the work undertaken by the schools.

The average boy's love for what are commonly called "boys' books" is a normal taste; and provided the stories are clean and wholesome, need not be discouraged. Alger's books, though not in good repute among librarians and educators, are unfailingly popular, and have more merit than is commonly admitted. The problem is to lead the boy from these stories of incident and adventure to the enjoyment of the great works of fiction and literature. He should leave high school not merely acquainted with a certain few good books, but with an educated taste and a desire for progress in his reading.

Two practical suggestions for achieving this end could be used by both teachers and librarians. The first is based on the fundamental principle of starting the boy where he can begin. Let him have something which he is pretty certain to like anyway, and then furnish him with books in which the same dominant note is maintained, but on a higher level. The certain groups of books might serve as an illustration.\*

The essential point of the second plan is to establish in the child's mind an individual interest in his own reading. This may be done by encouraging the child to write a brief report of each book that he reads. These reports, if written on uniform cards, can be filed in a place where all the children interested may refer to them. Those who contribute gain the inspiration which comes from figuring as an author, feel the spur of ambition, and find a tangible incentive to careful reading and an encouragement to better habits of written expression. The cards are six inches by four, with the heading given below.

Last name of author

Initials

Brief title of book

**DIRECTIONS  
FOR BOOK  
REPORT**

Tell what or whom the book is about, the time and place of the action, the chief characters.

Give a brief account of the contents, and tell what you liked about the book and why you liked it.

(The reports of each individual are to be filed where others can have access to them, and they may be kept separate by an index card bearing the writer's name. Each report should be signed by the writer. Both sides of the card may be used.)

The second address, "What the library can do for the boy," was given by Dr Lawrence B. Evans of Tufts college. He spoke of two institutions to which the trend of modern American life has given increased responsibility and opened a wider opportunity. The growth of urban population, the increase of the reading habit, and the greater closeness of the connection between library and school have given the library a large opportunity. The decrease in parental authority and that of religious institutions has made more important than ever before any movement which can counteract this tendency. One means of supplying good influences and minimizing the bad, espe-

cially among the more unfortunate classes, has been found in the boys' club. The primary object of these clubs is to counteract the influence of the streets.

Dr Evans illustrated general principles by his own experience with boys' clubs in Medford. The first preliminary was to convince the community of the need of such clubs. Many estimable citizens in Medford were skeptical until the chief of police named and located *twenty* gangs of boys which his men kept under supervision. After securing support, the next problem is to capture the boy. The encouragement here lies in the fact that the boy is so easily satisfied and so readily amused. The opportunity of the library comes in when the club has secured its meeting place, in furnishing deposits of books. These are supplied to entertain the boys while they are in the clubrooms, but with the ultimate object of enticing the boy to the library. Through the deposits, and later, if the boy comes to the library, the librarian will have a chance to guide his reading. It will require tact and patience, and all her arts will be

needed to convince the boy that he may ask questions, and that he has a right to receive help in finding what he wishes. One of the most convincing proofs that the club does accomplish results came from a policeman. The club had been closed temporarily for a few days, and he remarked, "When your club is closed things are doing on the streets."

The two papers brought forth some discussion, especially as to the merits of various boys' books. In answer to Mr Eastman's suggestion that the burdensomeness of writing book reviews might discourage the average boy, Miss Lamprey told of quite the opposite experience in trying her brother's idea in her library.

\*See page 110.

Mr Whitmore of Brockton moved that the thanks of the club be extended to the trustees of Brookline for their very generous hospitality.

The dinner at Young's hotel was attended by 128 members. Prof. Bliss Perry of Harvard college, in a delightful dissertation on "Literary fashions," added the finishing touch to a successful mid-winter meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Western Massachusetts library club held a successful meeting in Westfield, February 1. About 20 libraries were represented and the discussions were full of interest for both librarians and visitors. The morning was occupied by a discussion of the best books of the year for a small library. A list which is prepared annually by the City library of Springfield, was printed just before the meeting in the Springfield *Republican* especially for discussion at the meeting of the club. A paper prepared by Dr F. C. H. Wendell of Shelburne Falls on "The Stranger within our gates; what can the library do for him?" was read by Miss Shepherd, of the Springfield public library. Dr Wendell is himself of German parentage and has had much experience among emigrant people in New York. He has command of more than 12 languages and is full of sympathy for people and full of faith in the brotherhood of man.\*

Dean L. F. Giroux, of the American international college of Springfield, gave a comprehensive and virile talk, based upon his close contact with the foreigner. His subject was "The library as a promoter of good citizenship among foreigners." He began by saying that libraries were agencies that minister to readers and nourish good citizenship. He said the trouble is not the unequal distribution of wealth, but of culture, and it is the power and the duty of the library to distribute culture. Good citizenship can be promoted by books on social science, on the history of our country, on economics and patriotics. Through the few who come to the library the larger number of foreigners can be reached. Pictures are

exceedingly helpful to them, teaching much about America. Stereopticon pictures are excellent if they can be procured. Pictures showing American resources, geographic pictures and patriotic pictures impart civic and patriotic knowledge.

In regard to good citizenship, Dean Giroux said that the foreigners were law-abiding citizens before they came to this country, and are a most promising material. Government by law "people-made" is new to them. It is necessary then for us to teach them to have reverence for our laws. Their progress is amazing. They are most earnest in their desire to obtain knowledge of American ways, language and ideals. No one can tell the inestimable good the press, the library and the school are doing for the newcomers, but the general distribution of culture is work for the library. The children should receive the same quantity and quality as the native receives. Mr. Giroux said in closing that the spiritualization of thought was a very essential point, in the development of a sense of justice, truth, relations to God and to their fellow men.

A spirited discussion followed this address and many questions arose and suggestions were offered. John Anderson of New York suggested the bringing about of the printing serially in the foreign papers of such literature as the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, "Man without a country," etc. Rev. Mr Linn of Westfield added that adults did not have the chance in the old country to read; they perhaps have lived on farms or in small villages where reading has been impossible. But this fact does not discourage their being good citizens here. C. A. Brodeur thought that we ourselves should read about the newcomers and know more about them. In this way we would learn what they had done in their own country and what the country had produced and from what conditions the foreigner had come. At the close of the discussion the librarians were conducted through the shop of the United States Whip Company.

\*Dr. Wendell's paper appears on page 89.

**New York**—A joint meeting of the New York library club and the Long Island library club was held on Tuesday evening, Jan. 17, 1911, with the president of the New York club, Edwin H. Anderson, in the chair, a large number being present. Routine business was transacted and to new members elected.

The subject of the evening was on "Our foreign population," with special leaning toward its relation to the library and the library's relation to it.

Charles R. Towson, senior secretary, Industrial department, International committee, Y. M. C. A., spoke of the work of the association in teaching English to foreigners. He said that at the present time there are twelve of its representatives at European ports whose duty it is to acquaint the immigrant with the possibilities of the Y. M. C. A. On his arrival here, other agents are waiting to aid him. Nearly 12,000 non-English speaking men are now studying English in its classes. In New York city alone, 44 out of 100 volunteer college student workers are teaching English to foreigners, regardless of sect; 85 per cent of the number are engineering students. Results: For the foreigner, he can understand the "boss," he gets better wages, his economic value is increased. For the men who teach, the establishment of sympathetic relations with a class of men whom they will later employ.

Nine of these classes are held in public library buildings. No fees are charged at the beginning. After the foreigner's confidence is gained, he often volunteers to bear the expense of the class, especially of the necessary materials for carrying it on. Their method of teaching is one which Dr Peter Roberts, himself an officer of the Y. M. C. A., has adapted from a French method. It consists in suiting or applying the English word or phrase to the object or action. For example, "I get up in the morning." "I wash my face., etc., etc.," the subjective value of the subject often being of some consequence. The best results are obtained by teachers of heart power and dramatic

instinct, and not necessarily of pedagogical training. He emphasized the desire of the Y. M. C. A. to coöperate with the libraries in their work with foreigners.

Mrs Vladimir Simkhovitch, of Greenwich House, was the next speaker. She said the subject of emigration was the social problem in another guise. On the extreme East Side there is much reading, for the social problem is one that requires study. Where there are Scandinavian, German and Jewish emigrants the library is always well patronized. It is more difficult to get results with Italians. They are more inclined to the arts. Mrs Simkhovitch suggested story-telling to adults as well as to children, and said she would like to see our best English and American literature dramatized, and suggested that after such presentations books be at hand for circulation. She favored the translation of our English classics into the language of the foreigner. She referred to the question of the use of the assembly halls in library buildings, and felt that the library policy should be more liberal; that the halls should be used for concerts, little plays, even for dancing, and mentioned the field houses in the Chicago Park System, used for recreation, as places where people found expression.

An animated discussion was brought out by the foregoing addresses, several of the following participants touching upon the use of the assembly rooms in library buildings. It was noticed that those engaged in purely administrative work were inclined to think that the present bar of religious or political topics from such halls should be considered seriously before being removed, while those engaged in the sociological part of the work felt the bar a handicap. Several favored the translation of English classics into foreign languages.

Miss Rose spoke of the work of the Chatham Square branch of the N. Y. P. L., of its coöperation with the neighboring schools, missions and churches. She said the Italian people were difficult to reach because not a reading public

The only way to get at them was through the small churches, where she had always found the priests very willing to coöperate. In work with the Jews, long hours and lack of suitable clothing were obstacles to be met. The older members of the family were suspicious and timid, but were often reached by giving the children application blanks to take home. Work with the Chinese had been started. Some difficulties had been encountered, as books must be ordered from catalogs and purchased abroad; New York dealers are not familiar with this branch of the book trade; the cataloging and binding are difficult. She had found the Chinese eager to help, however, and circulars in Chinese telling about the library have been distributed in the Chinese section.

Mrs Maltby of the Tompkins Square branch of the N. Y. P. L. spoke of the English class for Hungarians conducted by the Y. M. C. A. at her branch. She advocated the assignment of a library assistant of the nationality of the foreign element of the locality to work with it.

Miss Burns of the Hudson Park branch of the N. Y. P. L. said that the Italian is retiring and dreamy, and loves literature and poetry, and she feels that perhaps the æsthetic hope of the country lies with him. She spoke of the foreigner's desire for books on laws and civics, and recommended as a book, simple, popular, and most likely to appeal, "Guide for the emigrant," issued by the Connecticut Daughters of the Revolution. [*Guida degli Stati Uniti per l'immigrante italiano*; by J. Foster Carr. Doubleday, Page & Co. 1910. 15c.]

Mr Adams and Mr Wellman touched upon assembly-room topics.

Mr Iles gave high praise to a book recently issued by the Sage Foundation, "Wider use of the school plant," by C. A. Perry.

Mr Stevens, president of the Long Island library club, told of a movement by an organization of educated Italians

in Brooklyn, for work among their own people.

A social hour brought a profitable and enjoyable evening to a close.

SUSAN A. HUTCHINSON, Sec'y.

**Vermont**—The State board of library commissioners held its quarterly (and annual) meeting at Northfield, in the Brown library, on January 18.

The subject was "Work of the library for the rural sections." An attendance of Northfield professors, club ladies, teachers, ministers and others interested, librarians from near-by towns and far-away places, took part. The school children came in to enjoy the pictures of animals, birds, Indians, Proctor marble quarries and stereoscopic views, interspersed with Miss Hewins's "Library goops."

In the evening Prof. A. B. Myrick, of the University of Vermont, gave an interesting paper on "Books and culture."

As usual, the hospitality of the town was given to those librarians who wished to stay for supper and over night.

### Interesting Things in Print

A list of books useful to teachers in the Decatur public library has been compiled by Minnie A. Dill, reference librarian of that institution. The little pamphlet of 16 pages contains the cream of pedagogical literature for teachers in the common schools.

The Chicago public library has issued Number 1 of Volume 1 of its new book bulletin. It is a very decided improvement, both in looks and arrangement, over the former publication of the Chicago public library, and cannot but be of decided advantage to the users of the library.

An exceedingly attractive looking pamphlet has been issued by the Case library of Cleveland, containing a list of autobiographies, memoirs, letters and journals in that library. The entries are under subject headings, with subdivisions, and include American, English, European, Actors, Artists, Musicians, Missionaries, Philanthropists, Scientific.

### Library Schools

#### Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

##### Training school for children's librarians

Seumas MacManus, the Irish folklorist and story teller, visited the school, January 19, 20 and 21.

This year his lectures and story hours were given in the lecture hall at the Central library and in the auditoriums of four of the branches and were open to the teachers and social workers of Pittsburgh. The following program was presented:

A merry ramble in Ireland; Irish story tellers and story telling; Irish fairy tales and fireside stories; Irish fairy tales and folklore; Irish ballad poetry.

Alice M. Jordan, custodian of the children's room, Boston public library, lectured to the school, January 24, on "Social conditions in Boston," and January 25, on "Selection and use of picture books."

Other special lecturers of the month were: Clara F. Baldwin, of the Minnesota state library commission, who gave one talk on the work of the Minnesota commission, and Edward Duff Balken of Pittsburgh, who gave an evening lecture to the students on "Etchings and engravings."

#### University of Illinois

The course in library training to be given at the University of Illinois during the summer of 1911 will coincide in date with the regular summer session of the university, beginning on June 26 and continuing for six weeks. Provision has been made for two instructors and one reviser, all of whom will devote their entire time to the work. One instructor will be a member of the regular Illinois library school faculty, while the second instructor, it is expected, will be a librarian from one of the public libraries of the state.

J. S. Cleavinger, B. L. S., Illinois, '10, librarian of the Public library of Jackson, Mich., on the occasion of a recent visit to the university, gave an informal talk to the school, in which he described the work done by his library.

The members of the senior class have been assigned for a month of "field work" as follows: Jessie L. Arms, Joliet; Ione Armstrong, Evanston; Mrs Bertha S. Baird, Rockford; Reba Davis, Bloomington; Mary Goff, East Chicago, Ind.; Grace Herrick, Decatur; Almeda Holman, Minneapolis, Minn.; Gertrude Jamison, Galesburg; Mary Marks, Springfield; Maud Osborne, Oak Park; Carrie Patton, Jacksonville; Clara Ricketts, Kewanee; Marcus Skarstedt, Iowa College, Grinnell, Iowa. At the close of the month's work the class will assemble in Chicago, where they will be joined by the junior class with some member of the faculty, for the annual visit to the libraries, book stores and binderies in Chicago and vicinity. It is probable that next year the entire school will visit the libraries of St Louis and towns *en route*.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

#### New York state library

The visiting lecturers in February were Mary E. Hall, librarian, Brooklyn girls' high school, "High school libraries," and Henry E. Legler, Chicago public library. Mr Legler gave three lectures in the Advanced administration course, two dealing in some detail with the work of the Chicago public library, and the third with "Library ethics."

F. K. WALTER.

#### Pratt institute

Recent lectures have been as follows: January 26—Edward F. Stevens, on "Special libraries and technical collections in libraries."

January 31—Marilla Freeman, on "The psychological moment" in the library's work.

February 14—James I. Wyer jr, on "Government documents."

The annual business meeting and luncheon of the Graduates' association took place January 25 at the St Denis hotel, New York. Mr Stevens presided and Miss Freeman was the guest of the occasion, and made a very pertinent address full of originality on the work of the librarian with the public. There were 94 acceptances and 88 persons present, including 13 of the staff of the Pratt

institute free library. At the business meeting several amendments to the constitution were adopted, one establishing life memberships of the association at \$10. The officers elected for 1911 were as follows:

President, Anna Burns, '08; vice-president, Louise G. Hinsdale, '08; secretary, Clara Bragg, '04; treasurer, Donald Hendry, '08; ex-president, Edward F. Stevens, '03; additional member, Winona H. Buck, '08.

In the annual Neighborhood fair, February 25, the library school students will attend to the refreshment booth and ice-cream tables in Spanish gypsy costume, as the fair is to be a fair of all nations.

Preparations for the spring vacation visit to libraries are being made, Pennsylvania and New Jersey (with a brief run into Maryland at Hagerstown) being the states covered by the itinerary.

The school was lately the recipient of a large photograph of the Boone college library at Wuchang, China, of which Miss Wood, formerly a special student at the school, is librarian. The *Boone Review* of a recent date contained a full account of the opening of the library.

The following changes of position or activities of graduates have been recorded since our last report:

Mary W. Allen, '02, has been appointed to the cataloging staff of the Hispanic society, New York.

Mrs R. H. Coe (née Rathbone), '03, is giving lectures on library administration and some work in cataloging at Simmons college.

Louise G. Hinsdale, '08, and Agnes Cowing, '02, have collaborated on a "List of books to read," arranged by school grades. The list is tentative and is to be replaced next year by a revised and annotated edition.

MACY W. PLUMMER, Director.

#### Western Reserve university

In connection with the book selection course Mrs Hobart, supervisor of Stations department of the Cleveland public library, gave to the library school stu-

dents two very interesting lectures on fiction writers. In the first lecture she discussed writers whose books were to be avoided; in the second, substitutes for books of this type were suggested.

During January the students have been having practice work in the children's rooms of the public library. Beginning with the second semester, February 1, and continuing for the rest of the year the practice work will be in the evening at the various branches. Work with the public will be the most important feature of this assignment.

At the session of library school faculties held in Chicago in connection with the League of library commissions the school was represented by Miss Eastman and Miss Whittlesey.

Eva Morris, a member of this year's class, withdrew at the end of the first semester. Miss Morris plans to spend the next few months in California. On February 10 the class gave a farewell supper in her honor.

#### Wisconsin

Helen D. Carson, '07, has joined the force in the order department of the University of Illinois.

Lydia Kinsley, '07, has been elected librarian of the Janesville (Wis.) public library. After a summer in Europe she spent several months indexing private medical libraries in Chicago and entered upon her new duties December 1.

Grace Woodward, '10, has been appointed cataloger of the Normal school library, Bowling Green, Ky.

#### Summer school

A summer school of library methods will open at the University of Michigan July 3, closing August 25. The course is designed especially to meet the needs of those engaged in library work who have not had the benefit of systematic training. Full information can be obtained from Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

### The Proposed Pension Plan for Library Employes

Omaha, Neb.

The plan which the board contemplates is one which would not entail any additional tax or burden upon the public, the idea being to accumulate a retirement fund by a small salary assessment upon employes in the library and by setting aside a certain proportionate sum from the annual appropriation for the support of the library. The board believes that employes of the library should be protected as teachers in the public schools are now protected by the present teachers' pension system.

The financial plan is, briefly, that a maximum pension of \$300 per year shall be paid upon retirement, which shall be compulsory at the end of 40 years' service, but which may be ordered at the pleasure of the board of directors at any time after 30 years of service. If an employe is suffering from ill health, or such disability as to incapacitate him from service, the board may retire him at any time after 20 years' service, the pension then received to bear such proportion to \$300 annually as the number of years that have been served shall bear to 30. Should there be reinstatement after retirement for disability, then the pension ceases until final retirement, when all the years of active service will be counted in fixing the amount of future pension. At all events, for an employe to avail himself of pension upon retirement, 20 years of active library service shall have been in the Omaha library.

### In the Cause of Peace

Dr Max Batt of Fargo, N. D., has prepared a paper on "Libraries and the peace movement," of which the following is an epitome:

Librarians should take an active part in the peace movement, firstly, because they, belonging to the more intelligent class of citizens, should realize its significance; secondly, because of their peculiarly fortunate position, they can help in guiding public thought in the direction

of peace, and, thirdly, because of the constantly growing literature on the subject, they should keep themselves informed of the progress of the movement and be prepared to furnish the requisite material when their patrons apply for it.

[It is probable that the paper in full will appear in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, later.]

### News from the Field

#### East

Charles P. Chipman of Boston has been elected librarian of Colby college, Maine.

Antoinette Metcalf, Pratt, '02, has been appointed reference librarian of Wellesley college.

Florence B. Kimball, N. Y., '06-'07, has been engaged to complete the cataloging of the Kellogg-Hubbard library, Montpelier, Vt.

The Redwood library of Newport, R. I., has received a bequest of \$50,000 and a well selected library by the will of the late Mrs G. B. Perry.

Mary L. Scranton, librarian of the E. C. Scranton memorial library of Madison, Conn., since its opening, 11 years ago, has resigned, and Evelyn Meriwether, lately of Norwalk and New York, will take her place.

Miss Scranton leaves April 1, to be married.

The annual report of the public library of Providence, R. I., records a home use during the year of 208,992 v., with 151,281 v. on the shelves. In addition, 3083 v., not counted in the circulation, were sent to clubs, schools, etc. The total stock in the foreign department is 9419 v., distributed through 18 different languages. Many of the foreign books are classified in the art and industrial collection, making the total number of foreign books very much larger. Nearly 11,000 v. were issued from these books. A pressing demand on the library is the need of more space in all departments and more books, in the branch libraries, to meet the urgent need in several sections of the city.

The annual report of the Boston public library notes a circulation of 1,671,327 v. for home use. There were 500,000 call slips issued in Bates hall, in the main building, during the year. This, of course, is only a small part of the calls for reference material throughout the library system; 43,319 v. were added to the library; amount spent for books \$50,002, about 13 per cent of the entire expense. Average cost of books was \$1.52 each. The library has daily supplied with books 28 branches and reading-rooms, 111 public and parochial schools, 58 engine-houses and 38 institutions. Number of volumes sent on deposit from the central library and the various branches was 41,077, of which 8780 were sent to schools; 21,308 v. were distributed from the branches among 131 places; of these 14,522 were sent to schools. The library collected from fines \$5516, and for lost books \$383. The city appropriation for last year was \$351,978, the income from trust funds was \$41,356, making a total of \$393,734. The library has 343 different newspapers filed for current reading: English 266, French 16, German 15, Italian 7, Spanish 7, Swedish 7, and 14 others, including Hebrew, Greek, Russian, Armenian, Polish, Welsh and Hungarian. The report records a number of valuable gifts to the library during the year. It also calls attention to the lack of sufficient accommodations for the public in many of the branch libraries and reading rooms. The trustees' report on the old-age pension act as applied to the library was to the effect that it would be of no practical value to the library either by increasing the efficiency of its service or in reducing the expense of the maintenance of the library.

#### Central Atlantic

Howard L. Stebbins, B. L. S., N. Y., '08, and Lucy Marsh Poate were married at Rushford, N. Y., Thursday, December 29.

Isadore G. Mudge, B. L. S., N. Y., '00, has been elected editor of the annual supplements and the five yearly consolida-

tion of Kroeger's Guide to the study and use of reference books.

Lulu A. Stronge, N. Y., '09-10, has resigned her position as assistant in the Aguilar branch of the New York public library to become assistant in the legal department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York City.

Hannah Ann Zell, who died at her home in Philadelphia at the age of 91 years, January 30, was greatly interested, in her declining years, in the establishment of libraries. Some 16 small towns in Pennsylvania owe their public library facilities to her generosity.

William Parker. Cutter has resigned his position as librarian of the Forbes library at Northampton, Mass., to accept an appointment as librarian of the library of the Engineering societies in the United Engineering Society building on West 39th st., New York city.

By action of the trustees of Columbia university, relative academic rank was given to the permanent officers of the library. The librarian will rank as a professor, the assistant librarian as an associate professor, supervisors as assistant professors, and bibliographers as instructors.

Mrs Clara S. R. Broom, for many years connected with the Germantown Friends' library, died January 17. Mrs Broom was a direct descendant of Betsey Ross, who made the first United States flag. She was also descended from the first settlers who bought land from William Penn, and another direct ancestor helped to build Independence hall. She was famed for her knowledge of books and genealogies, as well as for her literary ability.

Edwin M. Borchardt has been appointed law librarian of Congress and of the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr Borchardt, though not yet 30 years old, is an authority on international and foreign law. Until recently, Mr Borchardt had been head of the law division of the Library of Congress. It is the ambition of Dr Putnam and Mr Bor-

chardt to make the law department of the Library of Congress the very best collection on the subject in the world.

Edyth Miller, Pratt, '03, has been appointed head cataloger and organizer of the cataloging staff at the Hispanic museum's library, New York.

Caroline F. Webster, librarian of the Wadsworth library, Geneseo, N. Y., succeeded Zaidee Brown as organizer for the New York state library on January 1. Miss Webster was graduated from the Drexel institute library school in 1900 and served as assistant in the Buffalo public library until October of the following year, when she became librarian of the Wadsworth library.

Mary Banks, chief of the Reference department of the Seattle (Wash.) public library for many years and afterward engaged in library and literary work in New York city, has engaged to devote all her time to the organization and management of the new Public service library of New Jersey. The library is located in the recently completed Public Service building at Newark, but the work extends throughout the entire state of New Jersey.

The annual report of the Public library of Binghamton, N. Y., records a total issue of 155,123 v. for the year 1910. Of this number, 42,810 were non-fiction, an increase of 7000 over the preceding year. Number of volumes in the library 24,556, excluding all pamphlets and government documents. Registered borrowers, 9269. Additions to the library, 2061. Various extensions have been maintained by the library—a free lecture course, exhibits, classes and distribution of special lists. The library is cooperating successfully with several enterprises, and there has been increased use of the library building by several organizations. A course on "How to use a library" was given in grades of the public school, 21 lessons in all. A course of 10 to 12 lessons was arranged for high school pupils. The librarian has given public lectures on "The library as an opportunity," for various churches and organiza-

tions in the city. A special bulletin board for the use of the Boy Scouts was maintained in the children's room. Over 50 traveling libraries were sent to the public schools.

#### Central

Julia Rupp, Pratt, '06, has been appointed librarian of the Oshkosh (Wis.) public library.

Betty H. Pritchett, Illinois, '09-11, has the position of cataloger in the Waterloo (Iowa) Public library.

Sarah Helen Griffiths, Illinois, '08-09, has been appointed assistant in the Des Moines (Iowa) Public library.

The Iowa library association will hold its annual meeting in Mason City, Oct. 10-12, 1911. Malcom C. Wyer, librarian of the University of Iowa, is president of the association.

Effie L. Powers, head of the children's department of Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, has resigned her position, to succeed Miss Douglas in the same department in the St Louis public library.

Minnie Earl Sears, B. L. S., Illinois, '00, is a joint author with Isadore G. Mudge, formerly a member of the faculty of Illinois library school, is issuing a Thackeray dictionary which promises to be a very useful reference tool.

Myra O'Brien, librarian of the Galena public library, has resigned her position to go to the Bradley polytechnical institute of Illinois, at Peoria. Ava Hurst, for some time assistant librarian, has been appointed Miss O'Brien's successor.

The report of the library of Winona, Minn., records number of books 31,180, circulation 106,932, cardholders 4395, reading room slips 25,695. Total receipts \$13,210, expenditures \$7259; \$1333 was spent for books and \$2952 for salaries.

The University of Michigan library has opened a reading room for advanced students on the top floor of its building, which was formerly used as art rooms. The library will have thereby additional accommodations for over 100 readers as

well as increased shelf capacity. Four rooms on this upper floor will be used for seminary purposes.

Alexandrine La Tourette, Pratt, '08, has been appointed librarian of the Iron Mountain (Mich.) public library.

A bill has been introduced in the State legislature of Kansas making appropriation for a state organizer for the Public libraries department in the State library. This position corresponds to one already in active work in several of the states.

A branch of the Public library of St Louis will be established in the city hall for the benefit of municipal officers and employees. A permanent collection of 1000 books, pamphlets, reports and clippings on what every principal city in the country is doing in the way of improvement and legislative work will be installed.

The annual report of the Public library of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for 1910, reports 22,393 v. on the shelves, exclusive of pamphlets; 129 books from the rental collection were added to the shelves. Circulation reached 118,482 v. The increase in the use of the foreign books was small but steady. A circulation of 3788 pictures was recorded for the year.

The Public library of Spencer, Ia., has received notice of a present of five fine pieces of sculpture, purchased in Italy, now in transit, and which are expected soon to reach Spencer. The subjects are "The first lesson," Michael Angelo's "The Moses," "Castor and Pollux," "Temple of Vespasian," "Pliny's doves." The sculpture is a gift from Hon. B. F. Felt and his sister, Anna E. Felt, of Galena, Ill.

An art exhibit, under the auspices of the Women's clubs, was held in Dubuque, Iowa, in January. An Art association was organized for the purpose of bringing important matters of art to the attention of the public and the library is coöperating heartily.

In February, Mr French, of the Chicago Art institute, gave a lecture for adults several evenings in the auditorium. A chalk talk for children was held in the

afternoon. The library is planning for a small exhibit of water-colors in March.

A great deal of interest in the new movement is apparent and the library is taking an active part in its development.

The Public library of Cadillac, Mich., is in receipt of a subscription fund of over \$6000 to be used for the purchase of new books, repairing old ones and rearranging and beautifying the interior of the library. Librarian Koch, of the University of Michigan library, who transformed the library rooms of that building into most attractive quarters, is to supervise the rearranging of the Cadillac library.

#### South

Irene E. Blair, N. Y., '07-'08, has been appointed reference assistant at the University of Texas library, Austin.

The Texas library commission elected Dr E. E. C. Barker, of the University of Texas, chairman at their recent meeting. The other members of the committee are Senator Walter Tips, Mrs J. B. Dibrell, Mrs J. D. Sayers and State superintendent Bralley. E. W. Winkler was re-elected state librarian and plans for library extension throughout the state were formulated.

The report of the Cossitt library of Memphis, Tenn., for the year 1910 records an accession of 8930 v., making a total in the library of 58,504. The circulation for the year reached 205,903 v. Of this, 56,135 v. were circulated through schools and 8155 v. through the negro branch. Fiction, 60 per cent. No record of books used within the building is kept. Expenditure for books, \$6649; expenditure for salaries, \$8880; general expenses, \$10,404.

In a recent fire which destroyed the State house at Jefferson City, Mo., the Missouri library commission was fortunate that neither its rooms nor its stock suffered in any way by the fire. The necessity for offices for state administration made it necessary for the commission to move. The Public library of Jefferson City very kindly offered the

use of its basement until such time as a suitable location could be found. There is no room there for permanent headquarters, however, and the work of the commission will be at a standstill until more convenient arrangements can be made.

Joseph L. Wheeler, for some time assistant librarian at the Public library, Washington, D. C., has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Jacksonville, Fla., to succeed George B. Utley, recently appointed secretary of the American library association. Mr Wheeler is a graduate of Brown university, from which he received his master's degree, being assistant in the university library during the last two years of his attendance. He is also a graduate of the New York state library school, 1909. He takes especial interest in scientific and technological subjects, and has been signally successful in promoting the use of libraries among business and working men.

#### West

Adah Durand, Pratt, '08, has resigned the librarianship at Millbrook, N. Y., to accept that of Grand Forks, N. D.

The Omaha public library board has presented to the legislature a bill granting the right to library boards of metropolitan cities to establish pension systems. This bill requires employes to pay 1 per cent of their salaries and the library board to pay from any fund  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on a like amount. The interest mentioned will bring sufficient amount for a pension of \$25 a month. There is every reason to believe that the bill will pass.

#### Pacific coast

Lois Criswell, Illinois, '09-10, is organizing the Public library of Anacortes, Wash.

Clara C. Field, Pratt, '05, has resigned from the Oxnard (Cal.) public library in order to give more time to the organization of the Madera County free library. Miss Field began her work at Madera September 1, having been granted a six months' leave of absence. Ethel Carroll

has been appointed to succeed Miss Field at Oxnard.

The Los Angeles council has voted to accept the offer of Andrew Carnegie to provide \$210,000 for the erection of six branch library buildings in that city.

Bertha Wakefield, B. L. S., N. Y., '10, has resigned her position as head cataloger at Vassar college library to become chief of the catalog department of the Seattle (Wash.) public library.

#### Canada

The report of the Ottawa public library for 1910 shows a total circulation of 212,933 v., an increase of 19,117 v. over the preceding year. Of the total, 134,496 consisted of adult fiction, 28,254 of juvenile fiction, and 50,183 of non-fiction. Two school branches were opened during the year, and 10 school libraries. Forty reading lists were published in the newspapers; 6617 volumes were added to the library, including 2117 gifts; total in library, 42,550; 28 societies and clubs held 165 meetings in the library during the year.

#### Foreign

The British Museum has received a bequest from the famous library of rare books and manuscripts known as the Huth collection. By the will of Mr Huth the museum is to receive first selection of 50 items from the collection before the collections may be sold. The privilege is also given of exchanging from the Museum collection a less perfect copy of any item in the Huth collection which they may have, though such exchange shall be counted as one of the 50 of the selection.

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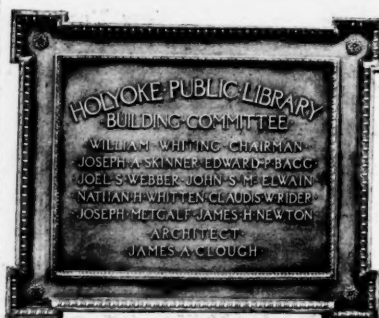
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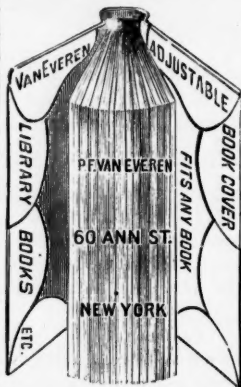
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